

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1372

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013

SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES .

Bajirao Shri Patil Padamsinha ;Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Das Shri Ram Sundar;Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal;Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay;Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben;Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Nagar Shri Surendra Singh;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao;Pakirappa Shri S.;Rajendran Shri C.;Ramkishun Shri ;Rana Shri Jagdish Singh;Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan;Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Ganesh;Singh Shri Yashvir;Tandon Shri Lal Ji

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the rules/regulations to enforce availability/supply of essential commodities and to check its hoarding and rising prices;
- (b) the present status of implementation of the said regulations indicating the number of raids conducted, persons booked and essential commodities recovered during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed or proposes to review the existing regulations for strict maintenance and supply of essential commodities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken to mitigate the suffering of the sections of the society worst affected by the price rise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) to (e) : The rules/regulation to enforce availability/supply of essential commodities were given in the form of an Act in 1946 called the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act. In 1955, the above Act was adopted and suitably modified and became the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 was promulgated in 1980. These Acts provide for control of production, supply and distribution of, and trade & commerce in certain specific essential commodities in public interest.

In order to check hoarding of essential commodities the Government has taken the following steps:-

State Governments have been advised from time to time to make appropriate use of both these Acts.

To enable the State Governments/UT Administrations to take effective action for undertaking de-hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955,

it was decided to enable State Governments to impose stockholding limits by keeping in abeyance some provisions of the Central Order dated 15.02.2002 in respect of pulses, edible oils, edible oilseeds, rice and paddy. At present stock limits are permitted for pulses, edible oils and edible oilseeds for a period upto 30.09.2013 and in respect of rice and paddy upto 30.11.2013.

The rules/regulations and the steps taken to mitigate the suffering of the sections of the society worst affected by the price rise is at ANNEXURE:

The present status and the details of the raids conducted, value of goods confiscated and persons booked for violation of rules under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, during the year 2010, 2011 and 2012 as reported by State Governments/UT Administrations are as

under:

(Updated as on 06.02.2013)

Year	No. of raids	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated
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(in Rs.lakhs)

2010 204783 10906 4539 161 10500.741

2011 180785 4498 4486 30 7164.8068

2012 128852 4022 3256 413 22907.626