

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1914
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013
CHECK ON RETAIL TRADERS
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to put a check on the retail traders of vegetables, fruits, flowers, poultry, fish, eggs and meat in the small towns of the country and bring them under a law/licence keeping in view the arbitrary and exorbitant prices being charged by them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of existing licence holders of wholesale and retail traders in the country;
- (d) whether wholesale and retail traders of various States are trading without licence;
- (e) if so, the number of such traders, State-wise; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government against such non-licensed holders/traders under the law?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): There is no such proposal by the Government to bring retail traders of vegetables, fruits, flowers, poultry, fish, eggs and meat in the small towns under any new law/license.

(c): Wholesale trading is in the hands of market functionaries like wholesale traders and commission agents. As in 2011-12, number of licensed wholesale traders across the country were 6,66,938 while number of wholesale commission agents in the country were 2,77,58. Per se, there is no licensing system for retail traders of vegetables, fruits etc. in the country. However, retail traders with establishments are required to obtain license from the respective local bodies for "Shop and Establishment".

(d) to (f): Wholesale traders are required to obtain license as per the provision contained in State Agricultural Produce Marketing laws. In view of the response at para (c) above, no license is required for retail traders for trading. On violation, if any, action is taken by the concerned State authorities. No data is collected by the Ministry regarding retail traders.