

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3281
ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014
STOCK HOLDING LIMITS
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Essential Commodities Act has a provision for imposing stock holding limits on various agricultural products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has relaxed/exempted certain agricultural products from the said stock holding limits under the Essential Commodities Act in the recent past;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for granting such relaxation/exemption; and
- (e) the impact thereof on domestic retail prices of such items during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Madam. This provision is for only those commodities covered under the schedule to section 2A, of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- (b) Section 3 of the Act deals with, 'Powers to control production, supply, distribution, etc. of essential commodities.' At present stock limits are permitted only for pulses, edible oils and edible oilseeds for a period upto 30.09.2014 and in respect of rice and paddy upto 30.11.2014.
- (c) & (d) Yes, Madam. Exemption is granted only in respect of Edible Oilseeds, Edible Oils and Rice vide notification S.O.77 (E) dated 9th January, 2014 to exporters having IEC Code issued by DGFT from the purview of stock holding limits for the stocks meant for exports for the purpose of calculation of stock limits. The reason for exemption is to avoid any undue harassment of exporters of these commodities.
- (e) Does not arise, as the exemption is only on the quantity meant for export.