

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5690  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015  
VEGETABLES UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT  
Mohan Shri P. C.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring onions, potatoes and other vegetables under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to prevent hoarding and artificial price rise of these items by unscrupulous traders;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether hoarding of these items is proposed to be made non-bailable offence under the provisions of existing law; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRIRAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b): Onions, potatoes and vegetables are already essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Vide notification dated 03.07.2014, the States and UTs have been empowered to fix stock limits for Onion & Potato. So far only West Bengal, Telagana and Odisha have fixed stock limits.

The action against hoarding, profiteering or price rise is to be taken by the State Government & Union Territories under the powers delegated to them vide order dated 09.06.1978 and also being the enforcement agencies.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. Copy of the draft Amendment is as Annexed.