

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2589

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2017

Arbitrary Pricing of Goods

Rathore Shri Hariom Singh

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

- (a) whether arbitrarily high prices are being charged on items of daily use by traders/manufacturers throughout the country by reducing the quantity of these items in small packings wherein their MRP is not mentioned and about 200% to 500 % more amount is being charged/recovered than the actual cost as per their quantity, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government plans to take any action against such production companies;
- (c) the details of necessary action taken by the Government to prevent the same including the dates on which the action has been taken; and
- (d) the number of such traders/ businessman against whom action has been taken and the number of persons found guilty along with the amount of money recovered from them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) : Packaged commodities of more than 10 gm if sold by weight or more than 10 ml if sold by measure are covered under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodity) Rules, 2011 which prescribe mandatory declaration of MRP. Further, there are quantity standards prescribed in respect of 19 items of daily use. There is no information with the Government that companies are selling the packaged commodities at arbitrarily high prices without mentioning MRP.

There are penalty provisions under Section 36 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 for the violations of the provisions of Acts and Rules. The enforcement of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and Rules made thereunder is done by the Legal Metrology Department of States/UTs.

(b) to (d) : Question does not arise in view of the above.
