

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.878
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/12/2017

ACTION AGAINST HOARDERS

878. SHRI HARIVANSH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that rates of onion and tomato have risen alarmingly;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to control the prices of onion and tomato and ensure the availability of these produces throughout the year at reasonable rates; and
- (c) the steps taken to advise the States to take stern action against hoarders?

ANSWER

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

(a) : The details of All India average retail prices of onion and tomato are given in the table below:

	All India Average Retail Price					unit: (Rs./Kg.)
	Price As On	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	1 Year Ago	
Date	18.12.17	18.11.17	18.9.17	18.6.17	18.12.16	
Onion	44.2	39.05	26.33	14.49	14.96	
Tomato	34.31	48.05	38.3	20.6	16.76	

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments

(b) : Government took various measures to control the rising price of onions. Export of onions is permitted only on Letter of credit subject to Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 850 F.O.B per MT till 31.12.2017. Government has enabled States to impose stock limit on onions and advised the producing States to take action against hoarders/traders engaging in illegal practices. Government directed NAFED and SFAC to procure 10,000 MT and 2,000 MT respectively from producing regions for supply in consuming areas. MMTTC was directed to import 1000 MT of onions with a provision for additional 1000 MT at the same rate. Letters were written to States to indicate their respective demand of onions. Government is retailing onions through SAFAL, NCCF and auction in mandies in Delhi to moderate prices.

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) including onion and tomato, for holistic development of Horticulture which also provides assistance for creation of post-harvest management infrastructure including setting up of cold storage for perishable horticulture produce. So far, 7682 number of cold storages with capacity of 35.16 million MT has been created in the country.

(c) : Government of India has made enabling provision allowing States to impose stock limit on onions till 31.12.2017. Letters were written to States to take necessary and corrective measures by way of licensing, imposition of stock limits and movement restrictions. They were also requested to hold periodical meetings with traders, farmers, retailers and consumer associations at State and District levels to impress upon them the need to desist from unfair and illegal trade practices and profiteering. Government has also requested States to initiate action against unscrupulous traders and hoarders of onion under Essential Commodities Act.
