

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3331
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6.12.2016**

STOCK OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

3331. SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:
(OIH) SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there exist guidelines to minimize or limit stocking of essential commodities by farmers, companies and traders and if so, the details thereof including the manner in which the Government fixes stock limit of essential commodities;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to remove the stock limit guidelines to allow traders to buy from farmers and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to establish a mechanism to address the issues concerning violation of stock limit and to remove/review stock limit guidelines and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some traders have taken advantage of the lack of proper rules/ guidelines in stocking of essential commodities by hoarding and creating artificial scarcity and if so, the details thereof along with action taken plan by the Government to address the issue; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to strengthen strategies to check hoarding and also the present law of checking hoarding to ensure availability of essential commodities and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)**

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

- (a) to (d) The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 empowers the Government to control distribution, supply and prices of essential commodities including food items. Vide Order No.G.S.R.800 dated 09.06.1978, these powers have been delegated to the States/UTs. Whenever they feel that there is an abnormal price rise or scarcity in the market in an essential commodity due to hoarding, they can impose limits on storage of the specific essential commodity after concurrence of the Central Government. The decision on the specific stock limits to be applied remains with the States/UTs.

The States & UTs are enforcement agencies to take action against violation of stock limits, speculators creating artificial scarcity etc. under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. Action taken by States during the current calendar year is annexed.

- (e) The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the PBMMSEC Act, 1980 are adequate to check hoarding and to ensure adequate availability of essential commodities in the open market.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3331 FOR 06.12.2016 REGARDING STOCK OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955 DURING 2016
(Relating to offences under EC Act- for violation of stock control orders)

Updated as on 02.12.2016

| Sl. No. | STATES/UTs | No. of Raids Conducted | No. of Persons | | | Value of goods Confiscated (Rs. In Lakhs) | Detentions Ordered | Reported upto |
|---------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | Arrested | Prosecuted | Convicted | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | ARUNACHAL PRADESH | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | July |
| 2. | ASSAM | 77 | Nil | 8 | Nil | 8.50 | Nil | May (Except 01/2016) |
| 3. | BIHAR | 54 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Not Reported | * |
| 4. | CHHATTISGARH | 81 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12.24 | Not Reported | April to August |
| 5. | DELHI | 79 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | July (Except 2/3/4/5/2016) |
| 6. | GOA | 23 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Not Reported | October |
| 7. | GUJARAT | 8208 | 13 | 14 | - | 122.37 | 12 | October |
| 8. | HARYANA | 58 | 46 | 5 | - | 81.79 | Nil | August (Except 03/2016) |
| 9. | HIMACHAL PRADESH | 20226 | - | - | - | 20.81 | Not Reported | August |
| 10. | KARNATAKA | 3266 | 137 | 14 | 0 | 41.57 | Nil | September |
| 11. | KERALA | 5380 | 38 | 26 | 8 | 4.11 | Nil | August |
| 12. | LAKSHADWEEP | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Not Reported | June |
| 13. | MADHYA PRADESH | 107 | - | - | - | - | Not Reported | June |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 14. | MAHARASHTRA | 389 | 577 | 275 | 0 | 295.61 | 1 | October |
| 15. | MANIPUR | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | August (Except 4/2016) |
| 16. | MIZORAM | 44 | - | - | - | - | Nil | September (Except 2/2016) |
| 17. | MEGHALAYA | 2 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | August |
| 18. | NAGALAND | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Not Reported | January |
| 19. | PUNJAB | 923 | - | - | - | - | Not Reported | June |
| 20. | RAJASTHAN | 44 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 1.51 | Nil | August & September |
| 21. | SIKKIM | 71 | - | - | - | - | Nil | August (Except 03/2016) |
| 22. | TAMILNADU | 15821 | 4482 | 3121 | 118 | 84.38 | 117 | September |
| 23. | TELANGANA | 1395 | 177 | 5 | 5 | 804.6 | 7 | August |
| 24. | TRIPURA | 351 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3.07 | Not Reported | August (Except 1/2/2016) |
| 25. | UTTARAKHAND | 596 | 23 | 4 | - | 0.8 | 4 | July |
| 26. | UTTAR PRADESH | 11700 | 110 | 154 | 74 | 264.4 | Nil | September (Except 06/2016) |
| 27. | WEST BENGAL | 504 | 163 | 30 | 2 | 10898.88 | Nil | October |
| 28. | A & N ISLANDS | 81 | - | - | - | - | Nil | September |
| 29. | CHANDIGARH | Nil | Nil | 3 | 1 | Nil | Nil | September |
| 30. | D & N HAVELI | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Not Reported | June |
| 31. | PUDUCHERRY | 677 | 2 | 8 | - | 93.72 | Nil | October |
| | TOTAL | 70157 | 5777 | 3675 | 217 | 12738.36 | 144 | |

Note : Other States have not submitted report so far.