

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2036**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.03.2020**

**HOARDING AND SPECULATIVE ACTIVITIES IN PULSES TRADE**

2036. SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:

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

- (a) whether the cases involving hoarding and speculative activities in the trade of pulses have come to the notice of the Government despite having stringent provisions in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to prevent such activities;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases reported across the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the gap between demand and supply of pulses has widened due to the said hoarding and speculative activities in the country during the said period, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of pulses across the country?

**ANSWER**

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री  
(श्री दानवे रावसाहेब दादाराव)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE**  
**CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)**

- (a) : No Sir.
- (b) & (c) : Does not arise.
- (d) : Government through implementing NFSM-Pulses to increase domestic production of pulses through enhanced productivity, crop area expansion under pulses and promoting research and development for evolving better varieties. Government is also implementing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) under which buffer stocks of identified agri-horticulture commodities including pulses, is built for calibrated released during lean season to help moderate the prices volatility. Apart from these Government also takes various measures from time to time stabilize prices of essential commodities including pulses which, inter-alia, include appropriately utilizing trade and fiscal policy instruments like import duty, export restrictions, imposition of stock limits and advising States for effective action against hoarders and black marketers etc. to regulate domestic availability and prices.

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