

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1595**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.09.2020**

**AMENDMENTS TO ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT**

1595. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND:

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

- (a) the measures taken by the Government to tackle hoarding of commodities in light of the recent amendments in 'The Essential Commodities Act'; and
- (b) if so, the details of measures taken/being taken to ensure that farmers get right price?

**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) : In respect of food items specified in the amendment of the Essential Commodities Act, the Central Government has already delegated its powers to the State Governments and Union Territories vide order dated 09.06.1978. So far, no State Government has submitted any proposal to impose stock limits on any of the items specified in the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. The Central Government has already constituted a Group of central enforcement agencies to check hoarding, black marketing, speculative trading, abnormal price rise etc. The group meets frequently.

Further, the States and Union Territories have already been advised to implement the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 effectively to not allow hoarding in the essential food items.

Action against hoarding of essential food items, specified in the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 is regular enforcement activity by all the State Governments and Union Territories.

(b) : To ensure farmers right price of their produce the Central Government has procured food items like wheat, paddy, Onion, pulses, etc. from farmers at MSP. Government has decided to maintain a buffer of pulses up to 19.50 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) and Onions up to 1 LMT under the Price Stabilisation Fund. The State are also advised to maintain such Fund.

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