

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2922**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2021**

**BLACK MARKETING OF COMMODITIES**

2922. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of any incidents of black-marketing of essential commodities during the Covid-19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry took relevant measures to curb black-marketing of essential commodities during the Covid-19 pandemic;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री**  
**(श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे)**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE**  
**CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (e): The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 empowers the Government to regulate prices, production, supply, distribution etc. of essential commodities for maintaining or increasing their supplies and for securing their equitable distribution and availability at fair prices. Most of the powers under the Act have been delegated by the Central Government to the State Governments with the direction that they shall exercise these powers. The Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 is complementary to the EC Act, 1955. It is implemented on an ongoing basis through the State Governments/ UT Administrations for the prevention of illegal and unethical trade practices like hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities etc.

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