

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3033  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025**

**BLACK MARKETING OF FOODGRAINS**

3033. SHRI B Y RAGHAVENDRA:  
DR. KIRSAN NAMDEO:

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented any specific measures to curb hoarding and black marketing of foodgrains and other essential commodities;
- (b) if so, the key steps taken to ensure strict enforcement and prevent unfair trade practices; and
- (c) the mechanisms in place to regularly monitor the prices and availability of essential food items to protect consumers from price fluctuations and shortages?

**A N S W E R**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
**(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)**

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**(a) to (c):** The Essential Commodities Act, (EC Act), 1955 and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, (PBMMSEC Act), 1980 provide the legislative and administrative foundations to the Government to regulate prices, production, supply, distribution etc. of essential commodities including foodgrains for maintaining or increasing their supplies and for securing their equitable distribution and availability at fair prices.

The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities (PBMMSEC) Act, 1980 is complementary to the EC Act, 1955. It is implemented through the State Governments/UT Administrations for preventing the illegal and unethical trade practices, profiteering, hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities etc. by ordering preventive detentions for six months of persons involved in such activities.

Further, in order to check cartelization, hoarding, and black-marketing of essential commodities, a Committee was constituted in 2016 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs with the representatives of Intelligence Bureau, Enforcement Directorate, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Income Tax and Delhi Police.

The Government closely monitors international and domestic prices, as well as price trends of foodgrains and other essential commodities in weekly meetings of Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC). Based on these assessments, necessary policy interventions are recommended by IMC in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments, ensuring a balance between the interests of consumers, farmers and the domestic industry.

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