

- (vii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by the technical staff.
- (viii) The principle of “First in First Out” (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.

Government's directions to check hoarding

1732. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT:

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

- (a) whether Government has in the recent past directed to State Governments to come down heavily on hoarders who try to earn profit from the reduced foodgrains production;
- (b) if so, whether the directions of Government had any impact on State Governments to check hoarding of foodgrains by hoarders;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether inspite of directions by Government to check hoarding of foodgrains, it remain ineffective; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) the enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 lies with the State Governments/Union Territories. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been delegated powers to take necessary action under the provisions of both “The Essential Commodities Act, 1955” and “The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980”, to prevent mal-practices in essential commodities.

Directions have been given to states/UTs from time to time to take necessary actions under both the Acts to prevent hoarding and smuggling. Recently a Chief Secretaries conference had been held on 08.08.2009 wherein *inter alia* the need to implement the stock control orders had been emphasized by Secretary (CA). Secretary (CA) had written to all the Chief Secretaries *vide* letter dated 03.08.2009 requesting them to send action taken reports on Essential Commodities Act regularly and also reiterated the need to fix stock limits where Central Government had issued orders and also to enforce them strictly. In continuation of this letter the Hon'ble Minister had also written to all the Chief Ministers *vide* his letter dated 23.09.2009. Hon'ble Minister had also convened a meeting of all Food Ministers on 16.08.2009 in which these issues were discussed.

Regular interactions have been had with the State Governments/UTs. Some State Governments have taken action and reported detentions under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The number of detentions as

reported by various State Governments during the year 2009 (Upto 31.10.2009) is as given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the State Govt.	During 2009 (Upto 31.10.2009)
1.	Gujarat	18
2.	Tamil Nadu	104
3.	Orissa	02
4.	Maharashtra	02
TOTAL		126

The action taken by the State Governments under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against unscrupulous traders in respect of essential commodities during the year 2009 (upto 31.10.2009) as reported by them is as under:

Year	No. of raids	No. of Persons arrested	No. of Persons prosecuted	No. of Persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated (Rs. in Lakhs)
2009	111367	5516	2982	42	2634.66

Strengthening of Forward Market Commission

1733. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is thinking of strengthening Forward Market Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the turnover of commodities exchanges of various farm items through commodities exchanges in the last two years, item-wise;

(d) the revenue Government got through trading of various farm items in the last two years through commodity exchanges;

(e) the commodity transaction tax imposed on various items traded through commodities exchanges, item-wise;