

- (b) In addition to above a quantity of 10.00 lakh MT wheat was also allocated by Government for sale to bulk consumers through open tenders by FCI from October, 09 - March, 10. On 18.1.2010, another 5.18 lakh tonnes of wheat from the expected savings from retail allocations, has been allocated for bulk consumers through tender sale.
  - (c) In order to check inflationary trend in prices of Rice, a quantity of 10.0 lakh tonnes of rice was allocated during Oct'09 to March, 2010 to State Governments for distribution to retail consumers.
  - (d) On 18.1.2010, NAFED has been allotted 37400 tonnes of wheat and 17000 tonnes of rice from the un-lifted quantity of OMSS allocations to State Governments. Similarly, NCCF has been allocated 32684.21 tonnes wheat and 11000 tonnes rice for sale to retail consumers.
- (xii) The Government also contemplating bringing legislation on Food Security.

#### **Implementation of Essential Commodities Act**

1721. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after meeting of the Chief Ministers on price rise issue, Core Panel Committee was set up comprising of Chief Ministers and Central Ministers whose prime responsibility will be to reduce gap between farm gate and retail prices;
- (b) if so, whether the panel will also look into and suggest various measures to tame prices including effective implementation of the Essential Commodities Act to check hoarding, and toning up of Public Distribution System; and
- (c) if so, to what extent this core group has so far recommended measures and to what extent it has helped in checking the food prices up till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Chief Ministers Conference recommended the constitution of a Standing Core Group comprising Chief Ministers and Central Ministers to deliberate on and recommend measures to, inter-alia, reduce the gap between farmgate prices and retail prices and better implementation of and amendment to Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Action is being taken to constitute this Core Group.

- (c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b).

#### **Subsidy for coconut oil**

1722. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: