

- (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:

- (a) the total subsidy given for palm oil in this financial year;
- (b) the reasons why such a subsidy has not so far been given to coconut oil despite the request of the Government of Kerala; and
- (c) whether the Central Government intends to give subsidy for edible oils especially produced in the country including Coconut oil to boost the economy as well as to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) In order to give relief to consumers from rising prices and to augment domestic availability of edible oils in the country, the Government has implemented a Scheme for distribution of subsidised imported oil through States/UTs. The subsidy approved by the Government is as follows:

Period	Subsidy (Rs. per Kg.)
July 2008 to January 2009	15
January 2009 to March 2009	25
April, 2009 to March 2010	15
April, 2010 to October 2010	15

An amount of Rs. 48,8011,245/- has been paid to the PSUs towards subsidy on refined palm oil imported under the Scheme during the current financial year (2009-10).

(b) The purpose of the Scheme is to provide relief to consumers and to augment domestic availability of edible oils. Subsidy under the 'Scheme for distribution of subsidised imported edible oils through States/UTs' is therefore restricted to edible oils imported by PSUs and supplied to the States/UTs for distribution.

(c) There is no proposal at present to give subsidy to edible oils produced in the country as the primary objective of the Scheme is to augment availability of edible oils in the country.

Unethical trade practice of hoarding and black-marketing

1723. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact of unethical trade practices like hoarding and black-marketing by dealers in various States;