

- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are to be used.
- (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are to be used as dunnage material. Stacks are to be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water-proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff including senior officers.
- (ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is to be followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.

In order to increase the covered storage capacity, Government has formulated a scheme for construction of godowns of about 150 lakh tons capacity through Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) and private entrepreneurs. Out of this, CWC & SWC are constructing 5.31 and 10.64 lakh tons capacity respectively under the scheme. In addition, during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, Rs. 149 crores have been provided for construction of storage godowns of 1.88 lakh tons capacity by FCI and State Governments.

Food inflation

1896. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an assurance was given to the Chief Ministers' Conference in February, 2010 that the worst of food inflation was over;
- (b) if so, whether that assurance was implemented; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister of India during his speech in the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 6th February, 2010 stated that he believed that the worst is over as far as the food inflation was concerned.

The WPI based food inflation rate (%) of primary food articles after having risen to 22.27% for the week ended 6.2.2010 and then having reached a peak of 22.93% for the week ended 12.6.2010 declined to 9.52% for the week ended 26.2.2011.

(c) In view of the above, Does not arise.

Raids against black-marketing of essential commodities

1897. SHRI RAASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many raids were carried out during the last five years to check blackmarketing of essential commodities in States and Union Territories;

(b) the quantity of wheat, sugar, rice and other things seized during raids; and

(c) how many persons arrested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) 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 "The Essential Commodities Act, 1955". No data for black-marketing as such or for specific seized items during raids is being maintained centrally. However, the number of raids conducted, number of persons prosecuted, number of persons convicted and value of goods confiscated for violation of rules under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 during last five years *i.e.* from 2006 to 2010 as reported by State Governments/UTs are as under:

(Rs. in Lakh)

Year	No. of raids	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated
2006	135025	5421	3244	498	977.21
2007	235405	6944	4872	1022	4003.96
2008	268775	8001	6425	790	6095.22
2009	209413	9012	5131	127	18805.29
2010	204783	10906	4539	161	10500.7

(updated as on 23.02.2011)

Payment of sugarcane arrears

1898. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugarcane arrears is required to be paid within 14 days of the supply of sugarcane by the farmers;