

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government is taking for providing sufficient foodgrains through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less.

As per these estimates, the total number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.44 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Further, as per these estimates, the accepted number of BPL families in Maharashtra is 65.34 lakh, including 24.64 lakh AAY families. Allocation of foodgrains to these 6.52 crore accepted number of BPL/AAY families, including those in State of Maharashtra, are made @ 35 kg per family per month.

Allocation of foodgrains are also made to Above Poverty Line (APL) families based on the availability of foodgrains in central pool and past offtake. Presently, the allocation of foodgrains to APL families ranges between 15 kg and 35 kg per family per month. Further, additional allocation of foodgrains is made from time to time depending upon availability of stocks and requirements/requests received from States/UTs.

Government of Maharashtra has reported that with the regular and additional allocations sanctioned by Government of India, the State Government is receiving sufficient foodgrains to cater to the needs of people covered under TPDS as per allocation norms.

#### **Black marketing of food grains**

2044. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of persons arrested in black marketing of food grains during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to stop the black marketing of food grains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 lies with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. The State Governments/ Union Territory 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 hoarding and blackmarketing of essential commodities. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been repeatedly requested to strictly enforce both the Acts and also monitor enforcement of these Acts.

The details of the raids conducted, value of goods confiscated and persons booked for violation of rules under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, during the years 2008 and 2009 as reported by State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are given in the Statement-I and III (See below) for the year 2010 thereon details are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No.277 (Part (a) to (f)]

The State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are empowered to detain such persons under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, whose activities are found to be prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies of commodities essential to the community. Details of detention orders issued under the said Act and as reported to the Central Government by the State Governments Union Territory Administrations during the year 2008, 2009 and 2010 are given below:

Name of the State	2008	2009	2010
Gujarat	16	31	79
Tamil Nadu	141	112	120
Orissa	01	02	02
Maharashtra	-	02	02
Andhra Pradesh	04	-	01
Chhattisgarh	-	-	01
Total	162	147	205

In order to check hoarding and blackmarketing of essential commodities the Government of India has taken the following steps:

1. In January, 2011 Video Conferences were held by Cabinet Secretary/Secretary with Chief Secretaries of all States/Union Territories reiterating the need for enforcement of the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to curb malpractices and provide adequate supplies of essential commodities at affordable prices and if required use State intervention and facilitate alternate arrangements for augmenting supplies of essential commodities.
2. A Conference of Chief Ministers was held on 06.02.2010, which was presided over by the Prime Minister to consider measures to insulate the poor and vulnerable from adverse price movements. As a follow up, a Core Group of some Chief Ministers and concerned Central Ministers met under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 08.04.2010 and recommended *inter alia* setting up of a Working Group on Consumer Affairs (under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Gujarat with Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra as its Members) to suggest strategies plan of action for reducing the gap between farmgate and retail prices and recommend measures for amendment and better implementation of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. These include the improvement of distributional efficiency, reducing intermediation costs, promoting State intervention for retailing essential commodities at reasonable prices and enforcement of Statutory provisions with a view to meeting both short and long term goals. The Working Group on Consumer Affairs has since submitted its report on 02.03.2011 for a decision by the Government.
3. Minister of State (Independent Charge), Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution had convened meetings of the Ministers of Food/PD/ Consumer Affairs of States/Union Territories on Zonal basis in February, 2011 *inter-alia*, to control rise in prices and ensure adequate availability of essential commodities at affordable prices for consumers.
4. To enable the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take effective action for undertaking de-hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, it was decided to enable State Governments to impose stockholding limits by keeping in abeyance some provisions of the Central Order dated 15.02.2002 in respect of pulses, edible oils, edible oilseeds, rice and paddy. At present stock limits are permitted for pulses, edible oils and edible oilseeds; for a period upto 30.09.2012 and in respect of rice and paddy upto 30.11.2012 for the 7 States/UTs *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, Manipur, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Andaman & Nicobar Islands who had sent their request specifically opting for continuation of stock limits in respect of Paddy and Rice.

**Statement-I**

*Details of Action Taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for the  
year, 2008 - Information received from States / UTs*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	No. of Raids	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated  (in Rs. Lakh)	Reported upto
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	17235	29	6	-	86.12	December
2	Assam	1419	14	19	Nil	2.37	December *
3	Arunachal Pradesh	23	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	November
4	Bihar	16	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	September
5	Chhattisgarh	225	1	32	1	102.03	March
6	Delhi	153	135	119	4	61.7	December
7	Gujarat	31098	20	142	Nil	253.15	December
8	Goa	121	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
9	Haryana	46	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	December

10	Himachal Pradesh	25634	13	49	Nil	15.52	December \$\$
11	Jammu & Kashmir	422	376	94	Nil	Nil	September
12	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	April
13	Karnataka	3396	74	1	4	580.95	December
14	kerala	87305	12	2	Nil	12.98	December
15	Madhya Pradesh	14921	52	107	Nil	405.15	April
16	Maharashtra	2551	3376	2595	Nil	2365.92	December
17	Manipur	99	4	3	3	0.16	December
18	Meghalaya	70	1	2	1	0.05	December
19	Mizoram	61	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.49	July **
20	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
21	Orissa	2001	22	117	Nil	17.51	November
22	Punjab	20632	22	9	4	3.08	November
23	Rajasthan	450	13	170	4	18.12	July
24	Sikkim	1	2	2	Nil	0.01	December

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25	Tamil Nadu	20268	2525	1127	761	683.33	November
26	Tripura	35	12	9	Nil	2.69	December
27	Uttaranchal						Not Reported
28	Uttar Pradesh	39474	1047	1734	Nil	1410.49	December
29	West Bengal	176	142	5	Nil	58.83	December
30	A & N Islands	291	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December * * *
31	Chandigarh	6	9	Nil	Nil	2.01	December
32	D & N Haveli	13	2	Nil	Nil	5.49	December
33	Daman & Diu						Not Reported
34	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
35	Pondicherry	633	81	81	8	7.07	December
Total		268775	8001	6425	790	6095.22	

\* - Except January & February

\*\* - Except April, May & June

\$\$ - Except - October

\*\*\* - Except - Sept. & October

Updated as on 31.3.2009

**Statement-II**

*Details of Action Taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for the year- 2009 by States/UTs*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	No.of Raids	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecut	No. of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated  (in Rs. Lakh)	Reported upto
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	7873	43	Nil	1	233.31	December
2	Assam	2382	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	December \$
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	3	3	Nil	Nil	November
4	Bihar	17	8	Nil	Nil	1.69	December
5	Chhattisgarh	751	36	90	66	858.27	December
6	Delhi	93	98	76	Nil	Nil	December
7	Gujarat	28025	30	89	Nil	528.31	December
8	Goa	30	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
9	Haryana	107	8	1	Nil	0.82	December *
10	Himachal Pradesh	24642	3	2	Nil	10.99	December

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	Jammu & Kashmir						Not Reported
12	Jharkhand						Not Reported
13	Karnataka	1659	137	9	3	24.58	December
14	kerala	48829	21	2	Nil	121.47	December * * *
15	Madhya Pradesh						Not Reported
16	Maharashtra	1688	2565	1562	Nil	13842.38	December
17	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	November * *
18	Meghalaya	8	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	December
19	Mizoram	366	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
20	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
21	Orissa	35494	7	149	9	14.56	December
22	Punjab	122	54	34	26	464.52	December
23	Rajasthan	281	3	62	Nil	36.89	March
24	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		December
25	Tamil Nadu	16404	4775	1471	7	623.25	December



26	Tripura	66	2	'2	Nil	0.65	December
27	Uttaranchal	Not Reported					
28	Uttar Pradesh	39684	1023	1491	Nil	1929.48	December
29	West Bengal	161	117	16	Nil	90.4	December
30	A & N Islands	208	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
31	Chandigarh	8	9	Nil	Nil	7.97	December
32	D & N Haveli	3	2	Nil	Nil	0.22	December
33	Daman & Diu						
34	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	November
35	Pondicherry	512	63	68	15	15.53	December
TOTAL		209413	9012	5131	127	18805.29	

\* - Except - August & September

\*\* - Except August & October

\*\*\* - Except October

\$ - Except August

Updated as on 7.4.2010