

Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Mid Day Meal Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)-'Sabla', Annapurna, Emergency Feeding Programme etc. During 2012-13, a quantity of 571.62 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated to States/UTs under TPDS. This includes additional allocation of 50 lakh tons of foodgrains made for the BPL families at BPL issue prices and 15.80 lakh tons of additional allocation made to 16 States for distribution in the poorest districts as per order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and 6.40 lakh tons of foodgrains allocated for the calamity relief, festivals etc. In addition, 28.93 lakh tons of foodgrains have also been allocated to States/UTs under Other Welfare Schemes.

Checking of price and hoarding

†1606. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government during the last three years to check continuously rising prices and the result thereof; and

(b) the details of measures taken by Government during last three years to check hoarding of food grains and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) There are number of factors influencing the prices of food items. The prices of some essential commodities including foodgrains have risen on account of various factors like poor rainfall, rise in cost of inputs, high international prices and rising demand.

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 check price rise including to prevent hoarding and blackmarketing of essential commodities. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been repeatedly requested to strictly enforce both the Acts and also monitor enforcement of these Acts periodically.

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 year 2009, 2010 and 2011 as reported by State Governments/UT Administrations are as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	No. of raids	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated (in Rs.lakhs)
2009	209413	9012	5131	127	18805.29
2010	204783	10906	4539	161	10500.741
2011	180785	4498	4486	30	7164.8068

The State Governments/UT 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/UT Administrations during the year 2009, 2010 and 2011 are given below:

2009	2010	2011
147	205	270

Further, in order to check hoarding and blackmarketing of essential commodities the Government has taken the following steps:

1. State Governments have a major role in checking prices of essential commodities by curbing malpractices, profiteering and hoarding through a set of administrative and regulatory measures. And all the State Governments have been advised from time to time to make appropriate use of both these Acts.
2. To enable the State Governments/UT 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.

3. Various measures taken by the Central Government specifically directed towards containing the price rise in essential commodities are given in the Statement. *[Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to U.S.Q. No. 1582 (Part c)]*

Export of wheat

1607. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government has requested the Central Government to allow wheat exports to Pakistan and Central Asian countries, through the recently inaugurated integrated check post at Attari in Amritsar, to facilitate farmers in getting remunerative prices for their produce as well as solve State's storage problem; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Punjab has requested the Union Government to permit the wheat export from Punjab to other countries. However, presently wheat cannot be exported to Pakistan through Attari Integrated Check Post (ICP) as it is not in the list of permitted items to be imported by Pakistan through land route from Wagah boarder.

Ceiling on salaries of CEOs

1608. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Companies Act, 1956 has prescribed any ceiling on the remuneration of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of companies;

(b) if so, the details of upper limit of remuneration of CEOs;

(c) whether some companies are paying more than the prescribed ceiling to its CEOs;