

(f) if so, the details thereof, and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Identified coal blocks are earmarked end-usewise and dispensation-wise based on grade of coal and reserves available in the block for allocation under various dispensation routes.

Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term) recommends for issuance of "Letter of Assurance" (LoA) based on the recommendations of Ministry of Power and taking into account other relevant factors. No priority is given to the projects being executed by the Central Sector/State Sector PSUs for grant of Letter of Assurance for coal allocation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer given to part (c).

(e) and (f) The use of coal is permitted as per the terms and conditions of the allocation letter in case of coal blocks and the provisions of Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) which is signed between the Coal Company and the consumes in case of linkages.

### **Strengthening of initiatives on market intervention**

330. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any committee to strengthen the initiatives on market intervention and to eliminate hoarding of commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) to (c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has not constituted any committee to strengthen the initiatives on market intervention and to eliminate hoarding of commodities. However, the Department of Agriculture is implementing the Market Intervention Schemes (MIS) for procurement of horticultural and agricultural commodities which are generally perishable in nature and not covered under Price Support Scheme (PSS) to provide remunerative prices to the growers and protect

their interest. To ensure availability of essential commodities to the consumers and to protect them from exploitation by unscrupulous traders, the Government of India has enacted the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. 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.

#### **Prices of essential commodities**

331. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete steps Government has taken, so far, to monitor and check the price rise;

(b) whether Government has formed any panel to deliberate on the root-cause of rising prices and suggest measures to control the same;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the recommendations made by the said panel and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether Government proposes to regulate forward trading, impose a ban on export and allow imports to check prices of essential commodities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) There is a mechanism in place to monitor the prices of essential commodities. Government closely monitors the wholesale/retail prices of select essential commodities from select centres across the country. The prevailing price situation as well as other factors which have impact on prices, both in domestic and international markets are studied and brought to the notice of high level committees, such as Committee of Secretaries (COS), Cabinet Committee on Prices (CCP), through agenda notes