

Sale of rice and wheat in the open market

1441. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) what was the quantity of rice and wheat sold in the open market through PDS during the last three years;
- (b) the rate, per quintal, at which these commodities were sold;
- (c) the difference between the minimum support prices of rice and wheat, sold in the open market; and
- (d) whether these sales had any moderating impact on inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) Rice and wheat from Central Pool are not sold through Public Distribution System (PDS) under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Corruption due to engagement of private individuals in PDS

†1442 SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cases of corruption in Public Distribution System (PDS) has increased due to engagement of private individuals in distribution of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the black marketing of PDS foodgrains is going on openly in the country; and
- (d) 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) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein the operational

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

Private agencies/individuals among others are reported to be engaged in implementation of various aspects of TPDS operations such as transportation of foodgrains to FPSs, distribution of foodgrains through FPSs etc. Government has been impressing upon State/UT Governments to ensure door-step delivery of foodgrains to FPSs and give FPS licenses to Self-Help Groups, Gram Panchayats, Cooperatives, etc.

There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of TPDS in some States/regions in the country. As and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. However, specific assessment regarding role of private agencies / individuals leading to corruption in the implementation of TPDS has not been made by the Department.

(c) and (d) The enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 lies with the State/UT Governments. The State/UT Governments 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/UT Governments have been repeatedly requested to strictly enforce both the Acts and also monitor enforcement of these Acts.

No information is maintained for specific items by the Central Government. However, 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 2012 as reported by State/UT Governments are as under:

No. of raids	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated (Rs. in lakhs)
128852	4022	3256	413	22907.626