

Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, but the responsibility for its implementation lies with the state governments/union territories. They are also periodically addressed to ensure effective implementation of these Acts.

New Market Policy

1791.. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware of the reports that onion prices will come down in the month of January - February when farmers would sell their new produce at reduced rates;

(b) whether Government has formulated a new market policy to facilitate farmers to sell their produce direct to local mandies and curb involvement of middlemen and hoarders of essential commodities;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) how farmers would be benefited to get remunerative prices of their produce with the formulation of new market policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS) : (a) Yes, Sir. With arrival of the late kharif and rabi crop of onion, the market prices are normally expected to show a declining trend.

(b) to (d) To facilitate better price realization by the farmers, reduce intermediaries and avoid exploitation by them, a model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 was circulated for adoption by State Governments / UTs.

The Model Act advocates several marketing channels and, *inter alia*, provides for direct sale by farmers to the consumers (Farmers Markets) to curb involvement of middlemen and also direct sale by farmers to Processors / Exporters / Retail bulk buyers etc. for remunerative prices for their produce. The Act also

provides for rationalization of market fee, no commission charges from agriculturist and payment to the farmers on the date of sale itself.

Violation of Infant Milk Substitute Act

1792.. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that baby food companies are promoting their products even violating the IMS Act;

(b) if so, the measures Government is planning to take in this regard; and

(c) the number of cases registered in the country against the violation of IMS Act during the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS) : (a) The Government has received four complaints against baby food manufacturing companies.

(b) For enforcing the provisions of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply, and Distribution) Act, 1992 as amended in 2003, four voluntary organizations engaged in the field of child welfare and development and child nutrition have been notified in the IMS Act to make complaints in writing regarding the violation of the Act. Further, in order to ensure effective implementation of the IMS Act, National Steering Committee on Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding has recently been constituted. This committee will review the progress on enforcement of IMS Act and suggest corrective measures for effective implementation of the Act.

(c) No case has been registered during the past five years in the country. However, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken up the four complaints with the concerned parties.

Supply of foodgrains and kerosene to Tamil Nadu

1793.. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had allocated requisite quantity of foodgrains including rice, wheat and sugar to Tamil Nadu in the last two years;