

Statement-III*Details of proposed joint action plan agreed upon*

The Conference agreed to the following Action Plan and its effective implementation over the next six months :

1. Special focus on monitoring and containing the prices of essential food items like rice, jowar, bajra, onions, tomatoes, potatoes, moong dal, turar dal and edible oils, milk and eggs;
2. Identification by State Governments of vulnerable areas prone to supply shortages for special monitoring;
3. Focus on adequate storage as well as quality of Coarse cereals like Jowar, Bajra and Maize to ensure availability. In this context States may also mobilise existing storage capacity utilizing the Government/Private/Cooperative storage infrastructure to ensure decentralized stocks across cities/rural areas;
4. States may establish a revolving fund for buying products/produce in bulk and regulate their storage as well as distribution during peak demand *i.e.* festival season at reasonable prices and through PDS for BPL card holders; and
5. Facilitating sale of essential food items through PDS shops, cooperative societies etc. for coverage of economically weaker sections at reasonable prices.

Artificial scarcity of essential commodities

2520. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has observed that there is a considerable gap between wholesale and retail prices of onions, potatoes and other essential commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of hoarding cases identified and persons taken to task for such illegal trade during last one year;

(d) whether in the light of prevailing artificial scarcity, the State Governments have sought permission of Central Government to impose stock control orders on the traders dealing with essential commodities business; and

(e) if so, whether any decision has been taken by Government to curtail such illegal business and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) and (b) A comparison of the monthly average retail and wholesale prices of select essential commodities over the last six months (January- July 2014) show that the difference between the two either shows a decline or only a marginal increase as given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The details during the last one year (up to 16.7.2014) are as follows.

1.	No. of raids conducted	43124
2.	No. of persons arrested	7577
3.	No. of persons prosecuted	310
4.	No. of persons convicted	1
5.	Value of goods confiscated (Rs in Lakhs)	2150.731

Source: State Governments.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Accordingly, Government has issued stock control orders under the Essential Commodities Act for onion and potato for a period of one year with effect from 3rd July, 2014. This empowers the State Governments to fix the stock limits.

Statement

Monthly All India Average Retail and Wholesale prices

Commodity Name	July 2014*		Differ- ence (₹)	January 2014		Differ- ence (₹)
	Retail	Wholesale		Retail	Wholesale	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rice	28	25	3	27	25	2
Wheat	21	19	2	22	20	2
Atta (Wheat)	24	21	3	24	21	3
Gram Dal	46	41	5	50	44	6
Tur/Arhar Dal	70	66	4	70	65	5
Urad Dal	73	68	5	64	60	4
Moong Dal	87	81	6	79	74	5
Masoor Dal	66	61	5	59	54	5
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	122	114	8	122	112	10
Mustard Oil (Packed)	97	89	8	99	91	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Vanaspati (Packed)	77	71	6	75	69	6
Soya Oil (Packed)	85	79	6	85	80	5
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	96	89	7	97	91	6
Palm Oil (Packed)	71	66	5	71	67	4
Potato	24	19	5	18	14	4
Onion	28	23	5	22	18	4
Tomato	32	26	6	20	15	5
Sugar	37	34	3	35	32	3
Milk (Ltr.)	37	36	1	35	34	1

*Prices upto 25.7.2014

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments.

Computerisation of PDS

2521. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is implementing the National Food Security Act, 2013; and
- (b) if so, whether computerisation of PDS will be done in the existing system in respect of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) has deemed to have come into force on 05.07.2013.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Allocation for food subsidy

2522. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made an allocation of ₹ 1.15 lakh crore in the current budget for food subsidy whereas the previous Government had estimated ₹ 1.32 lakh crore as the bare minimum subsidy for the National Food Security Act (NFSA) scheme;

(b) whether Government has arbitrarily given some States three to six months to implement PDS entitlements without any mention of food security allowance as mandatory compensation provisioned in the law; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?