

food items are mainly due to factors such as anticipation of deficient rains with possible shortfall in production, transportation cost, supply constraints like storage facilities for fruits and vegetables and artificial shortages created through hoarding and black marketing.

(c) The steps taken by the Government against hoarding and black marketing include the following:

- Advisory issued to State Governments to take effective action against hoarding & black marketing under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act 1980.
- Imposition of stock holding limits on Onions & Potatoes under Essential Commodities Act which empowers the State Governments/UTs to fix the stock limits for traders w.e.f. 03.07.2014.
- Based on interaction with the State Governments/UTs on 4th July, 2014, a decision has been taken to amend the Essential Commodities Act to make hoarding and black marketing a non bailable offence and increase the period of detention to one year from existing six months.

(d) As we are not self sufficient in the production of pulses and edible oils, the shortage in availability is being met through imports.

**Stoppage of Vananchal Express at Kotal Pokhar Station  
in Sahabganj, Jharkhand**

\*76. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any plan to consider the long pending request for stoppage of 13403/13404 Vananchal Express at Kotal Pokhar station in Sahabganj Jharkhand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Kotalpukur station is presently being served by one pair of Express trains and 9 pairs of Passenger trains which are adequately catering to the needs of passengers of Kotalpukur station. Provision of stoppage of 13403/13404 Ranchi-Bhagalpur Vananchal Express at Kotalpukur is neither commercially justified nor operationally feasible, at present.