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- The Government is also implementing “The Essential Commodities Act, 1955” and “The Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980” with the objective of preventing hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities. Issued advisory to State Governments to take effective action against hoarding and black marketing under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 and the PBMSEC Act 1980.
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**Bringing onion under Essential Commodity Act**

431. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to bring onion under Essential Commodities Act;
- (b) if so, the other items Government propose to include in the list;
- (c) whether State Governments have been consulted in the matter; and
- (d) the details of views expressed by State Governments in this regard, State-wise?

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

(a) Onion is already included under “Foodstuffs” under the Essential Commodity Act, 1955.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Corruption in retail outlets of PDS**

432. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of corruption in retail outlets of Public Distribution System (PDS) in various States;
- (b) if so, the number of complaints Government has received from the public during each of the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the action taken against the accused where the charges were substantiated?