

(b) The Essential Commodities Act, 1955, provides for actions to be taken to prevent hoarding of essential commodities, penalties & punishment to offenders. Effectiveness depends on its enforcement by the States/UTs under the powers delegated to them.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Details are given in Statement.

Statement

The action taken by the State Governments/UTs under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against persons involved in hoarding etc. in respect of essential commodities during 2011 to 2013 (updated as on 14.07.2013) as reported by them

Year	No. of Raids	No. of Persons Arrested	No. of Persons Prosecuted	No. of Persons Convicted	Value of goods Confiscated (Rs. in lakhs)
2011	205072	4576	4659	132	7473.43
2012	174373	4155	3610	522	24034.33
2013	196092	6056	2862	969	56784.81

Price-rise of essential commodities

1121. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether price of essential commodities have risen considerably during last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof, item-wise and month-wise;

(c) whether Government had promised to check price-rise of essential commodities within 60 days; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken in this regard and the outcome thereof?

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

(a) and (b) There has been increase in the retail prices of select essential food items over the last three months, as given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Government has given priority to containing prices and ensuring availability of essential food items in the country. The initiatives taken in this regards include the following:

- Minimum Export Price (MEP) fixed for potatoes at USD 450 per M.T. *w.e.f.* 26.06.2014 and of onions at USD 500 per M.T. *w.e.f.* 2.07.2014 respectively.
- States have been advised to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from the APMC Act.
- Government has approved the release of additional five million tonnes of Rice to BPL and APL families in states pending implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- Advisory to State Governments issued to take action against hoarding & black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 & the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
- Imposed stock limits in respect of onion and potato for a period of one year with effect from 3rd July, 2014 under the Essential Commodities Act.
- 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.

Statement

Details of price-rise of essential commodities.

All India Monthly Average Retail Prices (Rs./Kg)

Commodities	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	July, 2014 (up to 14 July)
1	2	3	4	5
Rice	27	28	28	28
Wheat	21	21	21	21

1	2	3	4	5
Gram Dal	49	49	47	47
Tur/Arhar Dal	70	70	70	70
Urad Dal	70	71	74	78
Moong Dal	88	89	87	86
Masoor Dal	63	65	65	66
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	122	122	119	122
Mustard Oil (Packed)	98	98	97	98
Vanaspati (Packed)	77	77	76	77
Soya Oil (Packed)	85	84	84	85
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	96	96	95	97
Palm Oil (Packed)	72	71	71	71
Potato	18	20	22	24
Onion	17	19	21	27
Tomato	17	18	18	25
Sugar	36	36	36	37
Milk	36	36	37	37

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments

Identification of Beneficiaries under NFSA

1122. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per the National Food Security Act (NFSA),