

Raid campaign against hoarders of pulses

†401. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that prices of pulses have increased exorbitantly due to their hoarding in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action against the hoarders;

(c) if so, the number of such traders against whom action has been taken so far;

(d) whether Government would allow to carry out a countrywide raid campaign to reduce the prices of pulses; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The rise in prices of pulses is due to several factors leading to demand and supply mismatch. Hoarding is one such factor. De-hoarding operations are carried out by the State Governments under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. All the States have been requested to enforce the Act effectively. Action taken during 2015 is given in the Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

Details of pulses seized from hoarders in various States during last three months

(As on 23.02.2016)

Sl. No.	State	Raids conducted, quantity seized and quantity disposed (MT)			
		Raids	Qty seized	Qty disposed	Balance
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chhattisgarh	112	5447.93	5320.56	127.37
2.	Haryana	1669	14.60	0.80	13.80
3.	Karnataka	1351	25545.83	23708.34	1837.49
4.	Madhya Pradesh	969	3144.74	2056.60	1088.14
5.	Maharashtra	5250	80167.44	78232.35	1935.02

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Telangana	1924	6712.51	2923.25	3789.26
7.	Rajasthan	875	2614.21	1895.27	714.94
8.	Jharkhand	140	282.02	0	282.02
9.	Odisha	180	1410.26	1403.86	6.40
10.	Andhra Pradesh	1300	1361.52	352.50	1009.02
11.	Gujarat	212	54.11	0	54.11
12.	Himachal Pradesh	500	3.42	0	3.42
13.	NCT Delhi	01	81.29	81.29	0
14.	Bihar	299	360.03	360.03	0
TOTAL		14482	126758.59	116334.85	10860.99

Statement-II

Action taken against hoarders and violators of orders under the E.C. Act during 2015.

(Updated as on 22.2.2016)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Raids Conducted	No. of Persons			Value of goods Confiscated (₹ in lakhs)
			Arrested	Prosecuted	Convicted	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2287	0	23	23	1056.51
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1	-	-	0.01
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR
4.	Bihar	299	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	168	0	0	0	5.04
6.	Delhi	20	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Goa	96	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Gujarat	8551	25	16	-	112.31
9.	Haryana	1744	123	138	-	120.38
10.	Himachal Pradesh	32818	-	-	-	27.13
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
12.	Jharkhand	140	NR	NR	NR	NR

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Karnataka	3005	145	0	6	16.71
14.	Kerala	8454	18	7	1	63.98
15.	Madhya Pradesh	38648	-	111	6	92.46
16.	Maharashtra	5906	707	242	2	4362.03
17.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	41	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Mizoram	141	-	-	-	-
20.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Odisha	2291	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.02
22.	Punjab	10443	-	-	-	-
23.	Rajasthan	840	NR	NR	NR	Nil
24.	Sikkim	71	-	-	-	Nil
25.	Tamil Nadu	29	41	41	0	0.09
26.	Telangana	4434	321	2	0	595.33
27.	Tripura	199	NR	1	NR	57.13
28.	Uttarakhand	5	9	9	1	2.5
29.	Uttar Pradesh	2045	107	121	17	274.46
30.	West Bengal	780	174	52	-	96.15
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	86	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Chandigarh	2	1	17	3	-
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
34.	Daman and Diu	NR	NR	NR	NR	Nil
35.	Lakshadweep	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
36.	Puducherry	741	1	2	-	0.63
TOTAL		124290	1675	782	59	6882.87

Rise in prices of essential food items

402. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of essential food items have shown upward trend during last three months and all measures taken by Government have failed to check the price rise in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;