

Manipulation in prices of pulses

2331. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of any Indian and/or foreign individuals/entities involved in manipulation and rigging of prices of pulses and the modus operandi thereof;
- (b) if so, the names and details thereof;
- (c) if so, whether Government has taken any action against such entities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) There have been reports that some private importers did attempt the formation of cartels in order to corner stock of certain pulses in producer countries, in order to delay the arrival of such imports in India. Government has conducted searches and seizure and surveys of a number of importers, traders and financiers engaged in pulses trade. The other steps include strict enforcement of the Essential Commodities (EC) Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential (PBMMSE) Act, 1980; strict vigilance by the Government to prevent importers from mis-using the facilities of Customs Bonded Warehouse facility; setting up of a Group of Officers for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization, etc.

Further, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) also maintains constant vigil on commodity derivative contracts, including Chana contracts.

Computerization of PDS

2332. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made in computerization of Public Distribution System (PDS) and linkage of ration cards with Aadhaar cards, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken to incentivise the State Governments to complete the process at the earliest;