

Year	Arrears at the end of (FY) (₹ cr.)
2013-14	45633.00
2014-15	58654.00
2015-16	50037.00

(b) to (d) No decision has yet been taken by the Government in this regard.

#### **Gap between wholesale and retail prices**

2777. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any norms to minimize the vast gap between wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government to bridge the Mandi-retail price gap and also to keep it under control by holding talks with all stakeholders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No Sir. Government has not formulated such norms with respect to 22 essential food items that is monitored by the Department of Consumer Affairs. However, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 State Governments are empowered to control the prices at which any essential commodity may be bought or sold.

Government has launched National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) on 14th April, 2016 with the objective to reduce the farm gate and retail price gap, induce competition and transparency in sale transactions through integration of mandis to e-NAM portal. This would facilitate on-line trading of agricultural produce and help reduce the supply chain in the physical marketing of foodgrains in the Mandi System. As of now, 250 markets of 10 States have been integrated with e-NAM. Tradable parameters of 69 agri-commodities have been formulated and uploaded on the e-NAM portal to assist e-trading.

#### **Misleading advertisements**

†2778. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating taking strict action against those issuing misleading advertisements;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.