

Black marketing of goods and commodities

862. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that a large-scale black market exists practically on all goods and commodities;
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the fact that preventing black marketing is important to create a congenial business atmosphere in the country; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to prevent/ defeat black marketing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (c) In the recent past no specific incident of large scale black marketing of essential commodities has come to the knowledge of the Government. The Essential Commodities Act (EC Act), 1955 and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, (PBMMSEC Act), 1980 provide the legislative and administrative foundation to control hoarding and blackmarketing of essential commodities. Powers to control hoarding, blackmarketing etc. under these Acts have been delegated to States/ UTs. State/UT Governments are advised/sensitised from time to time to take appropriate action against hoarding & blackmarketing and enforce the two Acts, effectively.

Setting up of cold chain and processing facilities

863. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that thirty percent of vegetables perished in the process of transportation from the farms to the primary and secondary markets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard;
- (c) whether Government proposes to set up cold chains and processing facilities and to promote ripening chambers to reduce the wastage of vegetables in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has formulated any scheme to make information about production, market rates and weather conditions available to the farmers?