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Title: Need to take steps to control the price of 22 essential commodities in the country.

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR):** Sir, price rise has become a serious issue in the whole of the country today. Normally, through the Government's Price Monitoring Cell, 22 essential commodities are monitored and distributed. These items are: rice, wheat, atta, gram dal, arhar dal, moog, dal, urad dal, masur dal, tea, salt, sugar, Vanaspati, groundnut oil, mustard oil, milk, palm oil, soya oil, sunflower oil, gur, potato, onion and tomato.

Sir, suddenly, the prices of onions followed by potato have gone to an extreme height. We are all concerned about it. What is the percentage of increase in price? I would just tell you that the average retail price of onions as on November, 2019 rose by 61.94 per cent over the month, and 243.64 per cent over the year.

So, I feel that the Government of India should send directions to all the State Governments to make active the Enforcement Department because Enforcement Department is a State subject. If ED becomes active in the State, de-hoarding can be made over there because hoarding is the main cause of price rise.

Sir, our Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms. Mamata Banerjee visits the market to do personal survey as to why prices are increasing of such items. This process of visit can be one of the major steps whereby Chief Ministers of the States can visit and know the real situation on the ground.

Also, the Price Monitoring Cell should be more active. They should rise to the occasion at proper time.

Sir, there is a proverb: “A stitch in time saves nine.” आपको समय पर एक फोर का जरूरत होगा और असमय में नौ फोर की जरूरत हो पड़ेगी ।

Price of onions has gone out of the limit and out of the hand. I would say that it is the failure of the Government of India and we all condemn it.