

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1714
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2003
BLACKMARKETING OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES
MANSINH PATEL

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have not received the information of the cases of blackmarketing and breach of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 from many States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and
- (d) the success achieved after taking the action?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a) to (d): The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 empowers the Central and State Governments to detain persons whose activities are found to be prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies of commodities essential to the community. The Act is being implemented by the State Government/UT Administrations for the prevention of unethical trade practices like hoarding and blackmarketing etc. In accordance with Section 3(4) of the Act, a report in this regard along with the grounds on which the order has been made and other particulars are required to be furnished to the Central Government within seven days of the order made or approved by the State Government. The State Governments and UT Administrations have also been requested from time to time to report the action taken as per the provisions of the Act. The detention orders made by the State Governments during the last three years and upto 25.7.2003 are as under:

| States/UTs | During the year 2000 | During the year 2001 | During the year 2002 | From 1.1.2003 to 25.7.2003 |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Gujarat | 179 | 98 | 80 | 56 |
| Tamil Nadu | 28 | 37 | 17 | 04 |
| Orissa | 01 | 05 | 01 | |
| Assam | | | 01 | |
| Uttar Pradesh | 04 | 07 | | 01 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 13 | 02 | | |
| Total | 229 | 149 | 99 | 61 |

Other States/UTs have not reported any detention under the Act during the above period.