

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2050
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2000
BLACK MARKETING OF FOODGRAINS
CHINTAMAN NAVSHA WANAGA

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

- (a) whether ceiling of foodgrains stock throughout the country has been removed;
- (b) whether restrictions on the movement of foodgrains from one place to another have also been removed;
- (c) if so, whether the aim of taking such steps has been defeated and these have encouraged black-marketing and hoarding of foodgrains in the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check these malpractices?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRIRAM CHAUHAN)

- (a) AS per Central Government's present policy, there exists no stock-limits on rice and coarsegrains. However, in the case of rice, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Tamil Nadu are still keeping stock limits on account of local conditions. As regards wheat, taking an overall view of the food situation and also the major storage constraints being faced all over the country, in April 1999, Central Government advised all the States/UTs to abolish stock-limits on wheat and wheat products. Subsequently, in September '99 we advised all the States/UTs to reimpose the stock limits on wheat and wheat products, with a view to check the rising trend in their open market prices, if the situation so warrants.
- (b) In March, 1993, Central Government adopted the national policy of treating the entire country as a single food zone for free movement of foodgrains so that the farmers could get remunerative prices of their products anywhere in the country. All the States/UTs., excepting Andhra Pradesh, J&K, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, have taken action to adhere to this national policy. These four States want to keep the movement restrictions on paddy/rice with a view to maximizing procurement.
- (c) No such instance has come to our notice.
- (d) Does not arise.