

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:194  
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006  
DECLARATION OF ONION AS ESSENTIAL COMMODITY  
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to declare onion as an essential commodity under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) & (b):- `Onion` was declared as essential commodity vide Central Notification dated 29.06.1999 and subsequently removed from the list of essential commodities vide Central Notification dated 25.11.2004. The decision to remove `Onion` from the list of essential commodities was taken as part of the policy evolved by the Committee comprising of some Union Ministers and Chief Ministers constituted during the Conference of Chief Ministers on `WTO and Agriculture` held on 21st May, 2001. The said Committee had decided to dismantle all unnecessary and redundant controls on movement and distribution, particularly of agricultural commodities, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.