

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:733  
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006  
RESTRICTION ON PROCUREMENT AND STOCKING  
Jha Shri Raghunath

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

- (a) whether the removal of controls on procurement and stocking of foodgrains has enabled multinational companies and private traders to procure foodgrains including wheat and pulses much in excess of their requirement leading to profiteering, hoarding and black marketing of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has imposed/proposes to impose quantitative restrictions on procurement and stocking of foodgrains including wheat and pulses; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of surprise inspections and raids conducted and dealers booked for hoarding and black marketing of foodgrains alongwith the action taken against such dealers?

**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) to (c): Central Government have issued Order No. S O 1373 (E) dated 29.08.2006 keeping in abeyance the Central Orders dated 15.02.2002 & 16.06.2003 with regard to the provisions for removal of Licensing requirements, Stock limits and Movement restrictions in respect of wheat and pulses for a period of six months. As per report received State Governments of Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, NCT of Delhi and

West Bengal have issued Notifications reviving the stock limits for wheat and pulses. The State Governments in exercise of powers delegated to them under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 conduct raids etc. to check malpractices like hoarding, black-marketing etc. Action taken under the Act by various State Governments/UTs during the current Calendar Year, as reported up to September, 2006 is as under:

- (i) No. of raids 89194
- (ii) No. of persons arrested 1302
- (iii) No. of persons prosecuted 2062
- (iv) No. of persons convicted 125
- (v) Value of goods confiscated Rs.376.87 lakhs.