

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:124

ANSWERED ON:08.07.2014

HOARDING OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao; Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao

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

- (a) whether it has been noticed/pointed out that speculative hoarding is one of the major cause for rise in prices of essential commodities in the country during the recent months and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has issued advisories to the States to take effective steps against speculative hoarding;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto indicating the number of raids conducted/offenders arrested and prosecuted during the last three months along with the action taken against the defaulting States, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to amend some sections of the Essential Commodities Act to empower the Government to issue directives to States to act against hoarders and to ensure its compliance; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI. RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

(a): Yes Madam. Details at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): The government has been regularly issuing advices to States for taking effective steps against speculative hoarding under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. In 2014 the advisories were issued on 02.05.2014 and 04.06.2014.

The details of response of the States (as on 07.07.2014) at Annexure-II. There is no provision for action against the defaulting States.

(d) & (e): The provisions empowering the Government already exist under section-3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.