

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1883
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.03.2020

VEGETABLES UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

1883. SHRI SHANMUGA SUNDARAM K.:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is having any proposal to bring onions, potatoes and other vegetables under Essential Commodities Act to prevent hoarding of these items by unscrupulous traders for artificially raising the prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether hoarding of these items will be made non-bailable offence under the provisions of the existing law;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government is having any proposal to set up Price Stabilization Fund; and
- (f) if so, the objectives and details of the scheme?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री दानवे रावसाहेब दादाराव)

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

(a) & (b) : 'Foodstuffs' which means a substance used as food including onions, potatoes and other vegetables are scheduled as essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(c) & (d) : No such proposal is under consideration with Government as of now.

(e) & (f) : The Price Stabilization Funds (PSF) was set up in 2014-15 to tackle price volatility in some agri-horticultural commodities viz. onion, potato and pulses. The objective of the PSF are to promote direct purchase from farmers/farmers' association at farm gate/Mandi, to maintain a strategic buffer stock that would discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation and to protect consumers by supplying such commodities at reasonable prices through calibrated release of stock.

The Operational Guidelines of PSF may be seen at https://consumeraffairs.nic.in/sites/default/files/fileuploads/price_monitoring/PSF%20Operational%20Guidelines%20DOCA_0.pdf.
