## राम विलास पासवान RAM VILAS PASWAN



उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री

भारत सरकार नई दिल्ली - 110 001 MINISTER

FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION GOVERNMENT OF INDIA NEW DELHI-110 001

D.O. No. S-10/1/2015-ECR&E

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The prices of onion have shown a sharp rise in the recent past. While the demand-supply mismatch due to various factors constitute the proximate cause for the sharp increase in prices in most markets, the situation has been exacerbated because of hoarding by both wholesalers as well as retailers. The need to undertake de-hoarding operations and steps to prevent blackmarketing was also discussed in the National Consultation Meeting of the Food Ministers of all the States on 7.7.2015. It was unanimously agreed that there is need to strengthen enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and effectively carry out de-hoarding operations by the States. The Central Government has already delegated all the powers to the State Governments vide Order dated 9.6.1978, under the EC Act, to take decisions on regulating production, distribution, supply, movement and pricing and notify it after concurrence of the Central Government.

- 2. The Central Government has also issued Orders under the Essential Commodities Act on 3.7.2014 with validity upto 2.7.2016 enabling the State Governments to impose stock limits on onions to ensure adequate availability of onions to the general public at reasonable prices. The State Government may take immediate measures to regulate stocking and trading of onions by the traders, middlemen etc. in the State so as to ensure its availability in the market at reasonable prices.
- 3. I shall be grateful if you kindly look into the matter personally and ensure all possible immediate measures, including exercising the powers under the Essential Commodities Act to check the prices of Onions.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

To, All Chief Ministers

(Ram Vilas Paswan)

जारी किया गया ISSUED