

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3800  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2015**

**ONLINE SALE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES**

3800. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has permitted online sale of essential commodities including foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the number of companies permitted to sell essential commodities including foodgrains and groceries online;
- (c) whether the Government has also constituted any monitoring mechanism to supervise the stock of essential commodities being sold by the said companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to ensure the availability of essential commodities in normal retail market?

**ANSWER**

**मिन्टर कए खातिर, कृपया बतायिये कि क्या आवश्यक वस्तुओं का ऑनलाइन बिक्री पर प्रतिबंध है; यदि हाँ, तो संख्या बतायिये कि ऑनलाइन बिक्री करने के लिए कितनी कंपनियों को अनुमति दी गई है; और क्या सरकार ने इन वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कोई निगरानी प्रणाली स्थापित की है; यदि हाँ, तो उसके विवरण और सरकार द्वारा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों का विवरण क्या है?**

**THE MINISTER FOR  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)**

(a) & (b) : There is no ban on online sale of essential commodities including foodgrains. At present, there is no separate law/regulations to govern e-commerce/online sale of goods and services. Therefore like any other retailing business they come under the purview of different laws like Shop and Establishment Act, Sales of Goods Act, Information Technology Act, 2000, Income Tax Act, Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, Indian Penal Code, Consumer Protection Act and the Contract Act etc.

(c) & (d) : Does not arise.

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