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Ministry assures sufficient supply of food for Deepavali

KUALA BERANG: The supply of food and other essential items for the Deepavali celebration is generally sufficient, says Datuk Rosol Wahid.

The Deputy Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister said the goods included chicken and eggs, which are said to be experiencing a supply issue, especially in the east coast states.

He said the assurance was given to him by the Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry (MAFI) during a meeting between the two ministries recently.

"We did receive complaints about

the shortage of eggs and chicken in Terengganu and Kelantan.

"As such, we are hoping that MAFI can make good on their assurance for the sake of the people," Rosol said after launching the Deepavali Festival Maximum Price Scheme here yesterday, Bernama reported.

He added that the shortage of eggs and chicken in the east coast was believed to be due to prolonged enforcement of maximum price control by the government and supply sources coming from the west coast.

Following that, he hoped that the

Special Task Force on Jihad Against Inflation could immediately meet to discuss a solution for the problem.

"We have received information from the industry claiming that the government was controlling the price for too long.

"It caused the industry to be affected, thus causing issues in the supply of chicken and eggs," he said.

Meanwhile, 14 items including live and standard chicken, super chicken, grade A chicken eggs, grade B chicken eggs, grade C chicken eggs and bone-in imported mutton have been listed under con-

trolled items for the Deepavali celebration, effective Oct 20 to 26.

"Other items that are also listed are tomatoes, red chillies, coconut, grated coconut, shallots, imported large onions and lentils," he added.

In Nilai, Negri Sembilan, the ministry's secretary-general Datuk Azman Mohd Yusof said that so far, no complaints had been received on hoarding of chicken eggs by any parties, especially traders. He warned that legal action would be taken against those found involved in such activities.

"I have also been in touch with the MAFI secretary-general and our

officers are having technical discussions with several ministries today to ensure that there is an adequate supply of eggs in the consumer market," Bernama quoted him.

He was speaking to reporters after inspecting the supply of food items at a supermarket in conjunction with the Deepavali Festival Maximum Price Scheme, effective Oct 20 to 26.

Azman said the lack of supply for chicken eggs in a particular area was probably due to problems with payment, remote location, transport and logistics, which would easily disrupt delivery.