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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 858

DATE OF ORAL REPLY: 23 NOVEMBER 2022

Mr A M Shaik Emam (NFP) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Given the monopoly that food corporations enjoy in the Republic, what steps has his department taken to ensure that consumers are not exploited through price-fixing in the (a) food manufacturing and (b) wholesale and/or retail sector? NO5363E

REPLY

The Competition Commission is

- (a) monitoring essential food prices in the value chain and food markets and publishes the results
- (b) Taking enforcement actions against illegal practices in the market where warranted and
- (c) commencing work on a Fresh Produce Market Inquiry (Inquiry) to determine the state of competition in the market.

Since the beginning of the financial year, the Commission has initiated 13 investigations into food manufacturing and wholesale and/or retail sector, as shown in the table below.

Investigations initiated since 1 March 2022

Parties	Case number
The Commission vs Woolworths	2022Jun0056
The Commission vs Wilmar	2022Jun0057
The Commission vs Willowton	2022Jun0058
The Commission vs Tiger Brands	2022Jun0059
The Commission vs SPAR Group	2022Jun0061
The Commission vs Shoprite Holdings	2022Jun0068
The Commission vs RCL Foods	2022Jun0062
The Commission vs Premier Foods	2022Jun0063
The Commission vs Pioneer	2022Jun0060
The Commission vs Pick n Pay	2022Jun0067
The Commission vs Massmart	2022Jun0066
The Commission vs FR Waring	2022Jun0065
The Commission vs Africa SunOil Refineries	2022Jun0064

In August 2022, the Commission published the Latest Essential Food Pricing Monitoring Report, briefly highlighting some of the drivers of food inflation. Given the impact of food price inflation on all consumers, but the poorest households in particular, the Commission will continue to monitor food prices and probe essential food price increases that appear to be abnormal or excessive. The Commission has initiated investigations into price transmission and margins in the value chains of the major basic food items.

The Commission also receives complaints from the public on suspicious price-fixing and investigates such complaints.

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