

[29 November, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Distribution of Foodgrains through PDS

1243. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for distribution of foodgrains through PDS for BPL families;

(b) whether all the States and the Union Territories have lifted their quota of foodgrains; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Under Targeted Public Distribution System a quantity of 25 kg. of foodgrains (rice or wheat) per month for each family below poverty line (BPL) is being allotted to States/UTs at BPL rates. At present a monthly quantity of 7.84 lakh tonnes of rice and 5.52 lakh tonnes of wheat is being allotted to the States/UTs under BPL.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The lifting of foodgrains (rice and wheat) by States/UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) depends on several factors, the most important being the parity between the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) and the open market prices; availability of foodgrains in the open market; purchasing power of PDS consumers especially those belonging to the below poverty line (BPL) category; quality considerations; and the food habits of the people in different regions of the country.

Wheat import from Australia

† 1244. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat has been imported from Australia without necessity;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.