

- Representation from M/s Greenpeace regarding the import of GM food namely "Dorito's Cool Ranch Corn chips" manufactured by Frito Lays Inc. for Pepsico USA without the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) notified under 'Rules 1989' of EPA, 1986.

- Representation from M/s K K Enterprise whose consignment consisting of Dorito Chips of three flavors namely 'NACHO', 'TACO' and 'BBQ' has been detained at Nhava Sheva Port, Navi Mumbai

(c) and (d) The import of GM food requires the prior approval of the GEAC under Rules, 1989 of EPA, 1986 and a declaration at the port of entry. In case of a wrong declaration or import without the approval of the GEAC both, the regulations provide for taking punitive action against the importers. The Food Safety and Standards Authority is in the process of framing rules and guidelines for import of GM food. Once the FSSA is operational, the import of GM processed will be exempted from the provisions of Rule 11, of Rules, 1989 of EPA, 1986.

Jaggery production

754. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to regulate jaggery production; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Foodgrains at cheaper rates to BPL families

755. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has consulted the State Governments for identification of exact BPL beneficiaries, to implement its promise of 25 kg. rice/wheat at Rs. 3 per kg. for BPL families;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of BPL families accounted by the State Governments are quiet higher than the number estimated by the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to figure the exact number of proposed BPL beneficiaries under this scheme, along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to enact the

National Food Security Act. In order to frame the proposed law, Government has initiated necessary action. Examination of different aspects of the proposed law in consultation with various stake holders is presently in progress. As part of this exercise, consultation with State Governments was held on 10.06.2009 as per concept note circulated on the proposed law.

Presently, under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) allocation of food grains is made for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) (including the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000. However, the total number of BPL (including AAY) ration cards issued by the States as per reports upto 30.06.2009 is 10.86 crore.

For conducting next round of BPL census, Ministry of Rural Development is in the process of finalizing guidelines. For identification of BPL families in urban areas, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has issued guidelines in January, 2009.

Consumer complaint mechanism

756. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

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

- (a) how effective is the on-line consumer complaint mechanism of CORE Centre; and
- (b) in what percentage of cases have consumer complaints been resolved in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The on line consumer complaint mechanism of CORE Centre is useful because the complainant without going to Consumer Forum, may get redressal of his grievances. On an average 1500 complaints per month are received at CORE. The percentage of resolutions is also increasing by every year.

The percentage of complaints resolved in the last three years is given below:

Sl.No.	Period	No. of Complaints Received	No. of Complaints Resolved	% of Resolved
1	01 Jan 06 to 31 Dec 06	13196	2260	17.12%
2	01 Jan 07 to 31 Dec 07	16261	4653	28.61%
3	01 Jan 08 to 31 Dec 08	17396	4683	26.91%