

for BPL Census 2002. For the next round of BPL census, the Ministry of Rural Development is yet to issue the guidelines.

The Department of Food and PD uses the poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of Registrar General of India to work out the number of BPL families for allocations of foodgrains under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Presently the allocations are made for 6.52 crore BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March, 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India.

Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act which will entitle BPL families to receive certain minimum quantities of foodgrains per month. However, consultations with various stake holders are presently in progress to work out exact details of various aspects of the proposed law, including the number of BPL families to be covered.

Rail-cum-road bridge at Bogibeel

*415. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of construction of rail-cum-road bridge at Bogibeel over the river Brahmaputra in Assam;
- (b) by when the project would be completed; and
- (c) what is the estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) The work on various activities of Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge has been taken up including land acquisition, earthwork, minor and major bridges on the link lines. The land acquisition and boulder collection for guide bunds and protection works is nearing completion. Earthwork to the tune of 248.53 lakh cum out of 298.78 lakh cum, 13 super structure out of 19 major bridges and 90 out of 98 minor bridges have been completed. For the main bridge, sub-structure, well foundations have been taken up and for the super structure, tender is under process. The work of South guide bund has also been taken up. Moranhat-Dibrugarh-Chalkhowa (44 km) new line has been completed. An expenditure of Rs. 1392.20 crore has been incurred on the project upto 31.03.09. The target for completion of the project is March, 2014.

- (c) Anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 3087.44 crore.

Adulteration in food items

†*416. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken concrete measures to check adulteration in food items on a large scale;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that bones and fat of animals extracted in slaughter houses are processed on hearths and mixed with food items in large quantity; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken to check this malpractice and by when these measures would be effective?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954 and Rules, 1955 have been brought into force to prevent adulteration in food stuffs and to save consumers from fraud and deception. The standards of various food articles have been prescribed in Appendix 'B' of the said rules. Food articles sold in the markets are required to conform to the specifications laid down under PFA Rules, 1955. Section 7 of PFA Act, 1954 prohibits manufacture for sale or storage or distribution of any adulterated food or misbranded food.

The implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules 1955 is entrusted with the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. The enforcement staff of the States/U.Ts. draw random samples of various food articles from time to time to check adulteration in food commodities and action is taken against the offenders where the samples do not conform to the prescribed standards or do not conform to various provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955.

Having noticed the reports in media about production and sale of spurious ghee in some parts of the country by some unscrupulous traders using animal fat, palm oil, essence and hazardous chemicals, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare requested Health Secretaries of all States/U.Ts to undertake thorough review of the implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 in their States/U.Ts and advise their enforcement staff to be more vigilant and identify the possible elements indulging in this unwanted practice and to take strict action against such unscrupulous elements under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder.

Essential commodities to poor and middle class through PDS

*417. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to provide essential commodities to the poor and the middle class through the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details of items to be provided;

(c) by when the plan would be implemented; and

(d) what are the products that would be available at subsidized rates?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Government implements Targeted Public Distribution