

(b) Sale of foodgrains for commercial exports from Central Pool has been stopped *w.e.f.* 01.10.2004. Export of wheat from the country was banned *w.e.f.* 9.2.2007. Export of wheat products (Maida, Rava/Sirgi, wholemeal atta and resultant atta) was also banned *w.e.f.* 08.10.2007.

Export of wheat flour (Maida), Semolina (Rava/Sirgi) wholemeal atta and resultant atta has been allowed on private account *w.e.f.* 03.07.2009 subject to the following restrictions:—

(i) The export is permitted subject to a limit of 6,50,000 tons upto 31.3.2010.

(ii) Exports shall be allowed only from Customs EDI Ports.

(c) Due to record procurement of wheat in RMS 2008-09 and 2009-10, the notification issued under EC Act enabling the State Governments to impose stock limit on wheat has been withdrawn with effect from 1.4.2009.

(d) Since procurement of foodgrains (rice and wheat) under MSP operations are open ended no target is fixed. Against the estimated wheat procurement of 244.2 lakh tons in current RMS 2009-10, 251.88 lakh tons of wheat has been procured as on 22.7.2009. Similarly against the estimated procurement of 282 lakh tons of rice in current KMS 2008-09, 318.35 lakh tons of rice has been procured as on 22.7.2009.

(e) The stocks of wheat and rice held by FCI and State agencies in the Central Pool as on 1.7.2009 is 329.22 lakh tons and 196.16 lakh tons respectively against the buffer norms of 171 lakh tons of wheat and 98 lakh tons of rice.

There is no surplus stock of sugar in the country at present.

Overhauling of PDS

2307. SHRI MANGALA KISAN:
SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

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

(a) whether Government is considering to have massive overhauling of the country's public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such overhauling would take place in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/UT Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible BPL and AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the fair price shops rest with the State/UT Governments.

To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly taking up the issue with State and UT Governments for:—

- (i) continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- (ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;
- (iii) improving monitoring and vigilance at various levels; and
- (iv) introducing new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities, etc.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that with a view to revamp the scheme for covering all the eligible families, the state government has introduced Iris biometric technology. It contains images of over 5 crores citizens and the process of purification is currently going on.

Further, the State Government has taken these measures to ensure proper distribution of essential commodities through TPDS and to curb leakages and diversion:—

- (i) Essential Commodities are being transported to door step to Fair Price Shops to ensure their proper delivery without diversion enroute.
- (ii) Securing acknowledgment of receipt of stocks delivered at the Fair Price Shops duly signed by two members of the Village Food Advisory Committee,
- (iii) Essential Commodities such as rice under TPDS and Annapurna scheme are issued to the card holders on surrender of coupons at Fair Price Shops.
- (iv) The role of the functionaries connected with the distribution of essential commodities at various levels is clearly defined for accountability.
- (v) Ensuring enforcement by regular inspections of FPSs dealers etc. by the enforcement officials as per targets fixed.
- (vi) Ensuring proper distribution of rice both in quantity and quality as per the scale, price and timings fixed for distribution by the Government.
- (vii) Close tracking of the vehicles transporting TPDS rice.
- (viii) Stern action is being taken against the persons indulging in illegal trade of TPDS rice.
- (ix) Vigilance and Enforcement by the District Collectors and Chief Vigilance Officers through integrated flying squads.

Cheaper wheat and rice to BPL families

2308. SHRI MANGALA KISAN:
SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

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