

Price rise of essential commodities

954. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps so far been taken by Government to control the spiraling prices rise of essential commodities;

(b) whether Government intends to provide rice, wheat, pulses and edible oils through the Public Distribution System of BPL as well as APL families; and

(c) if not, how Government intends to make available essential commodities at an affordable price to the people to ensure their livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Government Measures to check the prices of essential commodities are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 940 (Part 'a')]

(b) The Allocations of foodgrains for BPL and AAY categories are made @ 35 kg. per family per month under TPDS. Allocations of foodgrains under APL category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool and past offtake.

As regards pulses and edible oils, Government has launched 2 Schemes:—

(i) Distribution of imported pulses at subsidised rates by State Governments through PDS- @ 1 kg per family per month at a subsidy of Rs. 10 per kg. The distribution is generally restricted to BPL families but could cover a part of APL families also, depending on the availability and distribution logistics.

(ii) Distribution upto one million tons of edible oils to States/UTs for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 kg per ration card per month at a subsidy @ Rs. 15/kg.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of essential commodities

955. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to ban export of rice, onion and other essential commodities in the prevailing drought and flood situation to meet country's food requirement;

(b) the expected deficit of rice and wheat production because of prevailing drought and flood situation; and

(c) how Government plans to meet the shortages of rice, wheat and sugar to ensure food security of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Export of non-basmati rice is banned