

taking into account the amount of sugar production, import of sugar and the stock of sugar and the demand of sugar was 230 million tonnes; and

(b) if so, when there was a surplus of 70 million tonnes of sugar, the reasons for rise in prices of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) In the sugar year 2008-09, the total availability of sugar was about 25.8 million tonnes comprising of opening stocks of about 10 million tonnes, import of about 1.1 million tonnes and production of about 14.7 million tonnes (provisional) against the estimated domestic consumption of about 22 million tonnes and actual release of 23.1 million tonnes of sugar.

The estimated closing stock at the end of the 2008-09 season was merely 2.5 million tonnes and not 70 million tonnes. The domestic prices of sugar depend not only on the supply and demand position in the country but also on other factors like anticipated production in the coming season, global production, demand surplus or deficit, international prices, market sentiments and expectations, etc.

#### **Food Security Law**

942. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to accord legal status to the claim of food security;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government considers that the promise it is going to make to provide food grains under Food Security Law would ensure full meal to half of the population of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what would be the significance of this Food Security Law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Her Excellency, the President of India, during her address to the joint session of Parliament on 04.06.2009, announced that the Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act.

A Draft National Food Security Bill is under the preparation for early publication.

#### **Allotment of wheat and rice to Kerala**

943. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of monthly APL rice and wheat allotment to Kerala;

(b) whether it is a fact that allotment has been reduced recently;

(c) whether Government of Kerala has given any representation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The allocations of foodgrains including rice and wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made to all States/UTs including Kerala depending upon the availability of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. Present monthly allocations under APL category to Kerala are as per details given below:—

(Qty. in tons)

Commodity	APL Allocation
Rice	36056
Wheat	11777
TOTAL :	47833

Monthly allocations of rice and wheat to Kerala have not been reduced recently. In addition to the above monthly allocations, the following additional allocations have been made to the State for APL families:—

- (i) 50,000 tons of rice and 25,000 tons of wheat in August, 2009 for Onam Festival.
- (ii) A special *ad hoc* allocation of 46057 tons of rice and 15043 tons of wheat per month at MSP derived/based prices @ 10 kg per family for all accepted number of AAY, BPL and APL families for January and February, 2010.
- (iii) Under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS), 51350 tons of rice and 81320 tons of wheat for distribution to retail consumers during October, 2009 to March, 2010.

Government of Kerala has given representations for restoration of APL allocation to the level of 2006-07. Higher allocations of foodgrains under APL category were made upto 2006-07 due to surplus availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool at that time. The offtake by the State, however, was very less at 23.44% in 2006-07. Considering the current level of foodgrain stocks in the Central Pool, additional allocation of foodgrains under APL category to the level of 2006-07 is not possible.

#### Enhanced allocation under PDS

944. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for allotment of at least 35 kg. of rice to each family at the rate of Rs. 2.00 per kg. under PDS considering seriousness of price hike in the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and