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

(b) and (c) As per the recommendation of Tariff Commission, transportation charges within a distance of 8 kms. from the mills are included in the milling charges. For transportation of paddy and rice beyond 8 kms., charges are allowed provisionally on the rate fixed by the District Collectors of State Government or Food Corporation of India (FCI) rate, whichever is lower.

Final payment of incidentals including transportation charges for each Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) is released to the State Government on the basis of final incidentals fixed after examination of audited accounts/annual report for the year submitted by the State.

FCI has informed that a series of meeting were held with Government of Andhra Pradesh to resolve the claim of State Government on transportation charges. Last such meeting was held on 14.02.2010 wherein State Government was requested to submit its proposal on reimbursement of transportation charges for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2008-09 and audited accounts for cases upto KMS 2007-08 to Regional Office, FCI, Hyderabad for examination. Proposal and audited accounts from State are awaited.

Amount required for implementation of NFSA

†4670. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether Government has taken note of news-item captioned 'Food Act dole may cost Government Rs. 63K crore every year';

(b) if so, whether Rs. 63,000 crore would be required to be spent annually to implement National Food Security Act in the country; and

(c) if not, the estimated amount as of now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Government has seen the said news-item published in the Times of India, Delhi dated Wednesday, the 14th April, 2010. Government is committed to enact a National Food Security Act which, *inter-alia*, envisages entitling every family below poverty line to certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. The estimated amount of subsidy required and other details are being worked out. Once the draft National Food Security Bill is finalized, it would be placed on the website of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.