

Food security cover for APL families

*230. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Above Poverty Line (APL) families are not likely to get food security cover; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Allocations of foodgrains to Above Poverty Line (APL) families are covered under the existing Targeted Public Distribution System. Allocations of foodgrains are made to State/Union Territory Governments in respect of APL families based on availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. There is no proposal at present to discontinue such allocations.

The President, in her address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009 had announced that the Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act entitling each BPL family, by law, to 25 kg. of rice and/or wheat per month @ Rs.3 per kg. A draft National Food Security Bill is under preparation. The draft Bill would be put on the website of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

Bottleneck in railway line between New Jalpaiguri and New Bongaigaon

*231. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge bottleneck in the New Jalpaiguri to New Bongaigaon main railway line *via* New Cooch Behar;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to clear the bottleneck; and

(c) whether doubling of the line has been taken up?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) On New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon Section, double line already exists between New Jalpaiguri-Ambari Falakata and Samuktala Road - New Bongaigaon, The section between Ambari Falakata-Samuktala Road is single line with a capacity utilization of over 100%. There are two broad gauge lines available between New Jalpaiguri-Samuktala Road on different alignment which are able to meet the demand of traffic. A survey for doubling of Ambari Falakata-Samuktala Road was conducted in 2006-07 as per which cost of doubling of 146 km was assessed as Rs. 631 cr. Railway has been advised to update the survey report.

Share of minorities in technical and professional education

*232. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: