

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act entitling by law each Below Poverty Line (BPL) family to a certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has circulated a Concept Note on 05.06.2009 and 10.06.2009 on the proposed National Food Security Act to all State/Union Territory (UT) Governments and concerned Central Ministries and examined the responses received. The Department has also held consultations with the State Food Secretaries, representatives of various Central Ministries, Planning Commission, experts and other stakeholders. A draft National Food Security Bill is under preparation in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice. After Finalization, it is proposed to place the draft Bill on the website of the DFPD for public scrutiny and comments.

Planning Commission is the nodal agency of the Government of India for estimating poverty at national and State levels. For allocation of foodgrains to State and Union Territories (UTs) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Department of Food and Public Distribution is currently using the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission and the population estimates of the Registrar-General of India as on 1st March, 2000. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

Sale of sub-standard fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

*308. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the sale and distribution of sub-standard fertilizers pesticides, weedicides and fungicides;

(b) the action taken against the persons/business houses accused of sale and distribution of sub-standard agricultural inputs;

(c) the quantum of such sub-standard agricultural inputs and the degree of damage caused by their use; and

(d) whether the relevant provisions of law are adequate and effective enough to curb this menace or any amendments in the law are contemplated.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a), (b) and (d) To ensure adequate availability of right quality of fertilizers to the farmers at reasonable prices, the Government of India has declared fertilizer as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and notified Fertilizer Control Order, 1985. Under the order the Government of India regulates the trade, price and distribution of fertilizers in the country.

The quality of fertilizers is regulated under the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985. The State Governments are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the sale of non-standard fertilizers. As per the provision of the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985, fertilizers, which meet the standard of quality laid down in the order can only be sold to the farmers. The penal provision include prosecution of offenders with upto seven years imprisonment under the ECA, 1955 besides cancellation of authorization certificate and other administrative action. There are 71 fertilizer testing laboratories including four laboratories of the Government of India at Faridabad, Kalyani, Mumbai and Chennai with an annual analyzing capacity of 1.34 lakh samples. During the year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, the percentage of samples of fertilizer declared non-standard at all India level were 6.0%, 6.2% and 5.5% respectively.

As per the provision of law, State Governments are fully empowered to take action against those selling and distributing sub-standard agricultural inputs. Information available on action taken in 2008-09 with regard to fertilizers, State-wise, is given in Statement (See below).

The manufacture, sale and distribution of pesticides which include weedicides and fungicides, is regulated under the Insecticides Act, 1968 which has specific provisions for regulating quality of pesticides. There are 62 pesticides testing laboratories in the country with annual analyzing capacity of 65,340 samples. In addition, there are two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh and Kanpur and a Central Insecticide Laboratory at Faridabad which undertakes referral analysis. The statistics of analysis of pesticides samples for quality control in the State pesticides testing laboratory shows that 3.33%, 3.16 and 2.99% pesticides samples were found misbranded in the country during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. The Pesticides Management Bill, 2008 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha to provide for more effective regulatory frame work with categorization of offences relating to 'misbranded', 'sub-standard' and 'spurious' pesticides separately and punishment commensurate with severity of offence.

(c) The quantum of sub-standard agricultural inputs and the degree of damage caused by their use, has not been precisely estimated.

Statement

State-wise details of follow up action on non standard samples during 2008-09

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Non Std. samples	Administrative DRC cancelled	Action Taken DRC suspended	Others action	Prosecution launched	Cases pending per action	Charging higher price	Seizure of stock/ stop sale	Disposal allowed under cl. 23	Conviction awarded	Cases pending in Court	No. of cases other violation of FCO
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Assam	5	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Bihar	46	8	8	5	25	—	—	5	—	—	5	34
3.	Jharkhand	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Orissa	69	6	—	54	5	4	—	11	—	—	5	—
5.	West Bengal	235	—	—	232	3	—	—	3	—	—	30	—
6.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	43	—	—	34	8	1	—	—	—	1	326	—
8.	Madhya Pradesh	560	30	85	445	—	—	—	12	16	—	—	—
9.	Chhattisgarh	222	15	15	191	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Maharashtra	1620	44	202	625	34	715	54	159	—	—	963	—
11.	Rajasthan	406	—	—	209	5	192	—	14	—	—	2	59
12.	Haryana	59	3	—	21	10	25	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13. Himachal Pradesh	39	—	—	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Jammu and Kashmir	9	—	—	—	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Punjab	15	4	—	—	9	2	—	—	6	—	2	—	—
16. Uttar Pradesh	556	355	36	43	122	—	8	17	1	—	—	—	117
17. Uttarakhand	21	2	4	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Andhra Pradesh	507	8	28	254	10	207	1	—	—	—	—	56	—
19. Karnataka	410	—	—	373	—	37	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20. Kerala	216	1	22	20	—	173	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21. Pondicherry	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Tamil Nadu	379	—	363	—	16	—	7	—	—	—	1	13	—
TOTAL :	5425	476	766	2579	248	1356	71	227	17	4	1400	210	—