

alia includes sale of essential commodities as per the entitlement of ration card holders at the retail issue price fixed by the concerned State/UT Governments under the TPDS, display of information on Notice Board at a prominent place in the shop on daily basis regarding number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries, entitlement of essential commodities, scale of issue, retail issue prices, timing of opening and closing of the FPS, stock of essential commodities, the authority for redressal of grievances/lodging complaints with respect to quality and quantity of essential commodities under the TPDS, etc.

(b) Under the TPDS, Government provides foodgrains to State/UT Governments for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration card holder families @ 35 kg. per family per month. Allocation to Above Poverty Line (APL) families is made on the basis of availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and the past off-take. Presently, the allocation for APL Category ranges between 10 and 35 kg. foodgrains per family per month.

From February, 2001, the supply of Levy Sugar has been restricted under the TPDS to BPL families in the country except the North-East States, Hill States and Island Territories for which allocation is being made for coverage of BPL as well as APL families.

Kerosene is also one of the items distributed through the TPDS. Allocations of Kerosene to States/UTs under the TPDS are made on historical basis for the purpose of cooking and illumination only. Further distribution within the States/UTs through the TPDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs.

(c) Evaluation study of TPDS was awarded in 2006-07 in 12 States to National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). Report in respect of all the twelve States has been received and accepted by the Government and circulated to the concerned States for implementation. In addition to this, another study was awarded in 2007 to Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) covering 14 States.

Replacement of PDS with other scheme

3119. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to dismantle Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is considering to replace PDS with other scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Government is not planning to dismantle the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). TPDS is focused on the poor. Under TPDS, foodgrains @ 35 kg. per family per month are allocated to the States/UTs for 6.52 crore

Below Poverty Line (BPL) families (including 2.43 crore AAY families). Depending upon their availability in central pool, foodgrains are also allocated for Above Poverty Line (APL) families. Presently, the allocations for APL category range between 10 and 35 kg. foodgrains per family per month.

Proposal to regulate futures trade

3120. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to regulate futures trade in food commodities and replace the Targeted Public Distribution System by Food Coupons for the poor by 2012;
- (b) if so, the details of modalities worked out in the scheme;
- (c) whether Government has discussed the matter with various State Governments; and
- (d) if so, how Union Government proposes to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Futures trade in commodities including food commodities is regulated under Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952. There is no proposal to replace Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by Food Coupons for the poor by 2012.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Food supply to drought-hit Jammu and Kashmir

3121. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry is aware of the damage caused to Kharif crop of 2009 by drought in Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) whether he is aware of the shortage of foodgrains in certain areas of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly remote and Kandi areas;
- (c) whether any request for enhanced allocation of foodgrains to meet the shortage caused by drought has been made by Jammu and Kashmir Government; and
- (d) whether any steps have been taken or are being taken to ensure adequate food supplies to all areas in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir declared drought in 18 districts and submitted a Memorandum seeking financial assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for drought relief. In the Memorandum, the State Government indicated damage to cropped area of more than 50% in 4.75 lakh hectares. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team has visited the drought affected areas of the State from 7th to 9th April, 2010 to assess the situation and submitted its report.