

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.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir has requested for additional allocation of 63000 tonnes of foodgrains to meet the requirements on account of drought condition in the State.

Jammu and Kashmir is getting full allocation of foodgrains under TPDS for all accepted number of AAY, BPL and APL families in the State *i.e.* @ 35 kg. per family per month. Over and above the normal allocation of foodgrains under TPDS to the State, the Government has made a special *ad hoc* allocation of 11,890 tonnes of rice and 6,130 tonnes of wheat per month at MSP derived/based prices @, 10 kg. per family for all accepted (AAY, BPL and APL) families under TPDS for January and February, 2010. The request of the State Government for additional allocation of foodgrains for drought have been considered and the lifting period for the unlifted balance quantity out of the above allocation has been extended by two months upto 31st May, 2010. In addition, under Open Market Sale Scheme, 80,528 tonnes of wheat and 49,368 tons of rice have been allocated to Jammu and Kashmir for distribution to retail consumers during October, 2009 to March, 2010. The validity period for lifting of the foodgrains allocated under this scheme has also been extended upto 30th June, 2010 to enable the State to lift the balance allocation to meet its additional requirement of foodgrains.

Damage of wheat in Punjab

3122. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it was reported recently that Rs. 800 crore worth wheat was damaged in Punjab due to want of storage godowns;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the officials responsible for such massive loss of foodgrains when millions are starving in the country;
- (d) by when there will have state-of-the art godowns to store the foodgrains so that no food in the future is ever wasted;
- (e) how much foodgrains are wasted annually in the country; and
- (f) the details thereof, tonnage-wise and value-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. The reported news item that Rs. 800 crore worth of wheat was damaged in Punjab due to want of storage space is not correct.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) In Punjab the covered capacity both owned and hired available with FCI as on 15.03.2010 is 62.69 lakh tonnes. Further under the pilot project at Moga, a 2 lakh tonnes capacity silo has been built with State of the art technology and is equipped with facilities like, fully automatic bulk grain handling, electronic weighbridge, mechanized railway yard, automatic system for cleaning, drying etc.

For creation of storage capacity for the long term, Government has formulated a scheme for