

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.