

identification of BPL families in the rural areas are issued by the Ministry of Rural Development, while the actual survey of BPL families is carried out by the State Governments.

At present, Government makes allocations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to the States for 6.52 crore BPL families, including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. This number is based on the March, 1993 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission and the population estimates of the Registrar-General of India as on 01.03.2000. As reported by the State Governments by 31.03.2010, the number of BPL ration cards (including AAY ration cards) issued by the States stood at 11.08 crore.

The present scale of issue of foodgrains under TPDS to BPL and AAY families is 35 kg. per family per month. The Supreme Court, in an interim order in a Public Interest Litigation [WP(C) No. 196 of 2001] pending before it, has modified its earlier interim order dated 28.11.2001 to the extent that the allotment shall be 35 kg. in view of the increase, subsequent to the order. A decision on the scale of issue of foodgrains, as also other issues under the proposed NFSA, is yet to be taken.

#### **Monitoring of stock for day-to-day needs**

†3111. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:  
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the limit of stock for items of day-to-day needs like sugar is being fixed and monitoring is being done of the same;

(b) if so, whether Government's permission to industries for directly importing food items affects the prices of these items and to what extent Government has control over it;

(c) if so, whether Government has in mind the necessity of poor consumers of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Central Government has enabled State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, to impose stockholding limits in respect of pulses, edible oils, edible oil seeds, rice, paddy and sugar upto 30.09.2010. The monitoring of limits on the said items is done by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

(b) The prices of food items in the open market depend upon a number of factors such as domestic production, demand and supply, global supply and demand, shortage or surplus in the international market, international prices, market sentiments and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

expectations etc. As such, it is not possible to indicate the effect of importing food items on domestic prices.

(c) and (d) The interest of poor consumers is protected by supplying the essential items like wheat, rice, sugar etc. through the Public Distribution System.

#### Arrangement for storing of wheat

†3112. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:  
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat is still stocked in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) beyond its capacity from the year 2007, 2008 and 2009;

(b) if so, whether stocked wheat is rotting and is not eatable; and

(c) the details of arrangement for storage of wheat of current season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. The total capacity available with FCI and the stocks stored therein for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 are as under :—

Figures in LMT

As on	Capacity (Covered+CAP)	Stocks
31.3.2007	252.87	135.97
31.3.2008	238.94	117.49
31.3.2009	252.79	192.58

Thus, the overall stocks were not beyond the capacity available with FCI for the three years.

(b) No, Sir. However, certain quantities may get damaged and become non-issuable due to reasons like rodents, pests, etc.

(c) At present storage gap in the two major procuring States of Punjab and Haryana is estimated at 12.63 lakh tonnes and 1.04 lakh tonnes respectively on account of expected arrival of new rabi wheat crop.

The arrangements for storage of wheat for the current season and corrective actions taken to bridge the storage gap are as under :—

1. For creation of storage capacity for the long term, Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through Private Entrepreneurs, under a 7 years guarantee. Furthermore, wherever CWC and SWCs construct godowns on their own land, FCI will provide 6 years guarantee.

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