

Central Food Security Fund

3883. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

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

(a) whether Government has decided to set up a Central Food Security Fund to monetarily compensate the BPL beneficiaries of the Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments that fail to provide the mandatory rations to entitled BPL families will have to bear the cost of any such compensation; and

(d) if so, how Central Government plans to monitor the new deal for BPL families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The Government is committed to the enactment of the National Food Security Act which, *inter alia*, envisages entitling every family below the poverty line to a certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. Details of the proposed legislation are being worked out. Once the draft National Food Security Bill is finalised, it would be placed on the website of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

Failure of PDS

3884. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Committee appointed by the Supreme Court has recently slammed the Public Distribution System as one of the most corrupt schemes in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether the root causes of the failure of PDS in several States have been ascertained;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether in view of the CVC report on the poor functioning of PDS, the Union Government proposes to take any steps to evaluate and improve the functioning of the PDS; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) The Central Vigilance Committee

(CVC), set up by Hon'ble Supreme Court in the context of Writ Petition no. 196/2001 to study functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS), has submitted its reports to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in respect of 12 States/UTs, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan, Kerala and Uttarakhand as well as a report on Computerisation of Public Distribution System (PDS) operations.

Central Vigilance Committee has referred to certain deficiencies/shortcomings in the functioning of TPDS and has made recommendations for strengthening of TPDS. The reports of the Committee relating to States/UTs have been sent to concerned State/UT Governments to examine and send comments along with their action taken report.

Governments has issued directions to State Governments to streamline functioning of TPDS by enforcing provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001. Besides this, the Government has also issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

Selling of wheat and rice in open market

†3885. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to sell wheat and rice in open market in the country;

(b) if so, when this decision was taken during the financial year 2009-10 and the reasons behind such decision;

(c) the names of products along with their quantity decided to be sold under above decision and the prices fixed for the sale of these products; and

(d) the names of products along with quantity thereof sold in open market in the country as per this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government decided in August, 2009 to sell wheat and rice under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) in the Country to check inflationary trends in their prices.

(c) and (d) 20.81 lakh tonnes and 5 lakh tonnes of wheat was allocated for sale through tenders to bulk Consumers and small processors respectively under this Scheme through FCI. In addition to above, 20 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice was allotted to States/Union Territories/NAFED/NCCF for distribution to retail consumers under the Scheme. Details showing price and lifting of wheat and rice under the Scheme are given in the Statement-I, II and III.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.