

- (a) whether to bridge the gap between production and demand of pulses, Government has decided to augment domestic production as well as to import pulses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the subsidized pulses supplied through PDS are being sold in open markets at higher price; and
- (d) if so, the corrective measure contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The annual Domestic production of pulses has been around 14-14.08 million tonnes during the last three years. The demand for pulses was estimated around 17-18 MTs during the last three years. The gap between demand and supply is filled by import of variety of pulses. Government has allowed import of pulses at zero duty. In order to facilitate higher import of pulses there are two schemes in operation such as

- (i) Scheme for import of pulses by PSUs against reimbursement of losses up to 15% of landed cost and service charge of 1.2% of CIF value.
- (ii) Distribution of imported pulses by State Governments through PDS, @ 1 kg per family per month at a subsidy of Rs.10 per kg.
- (c) So far Government has not received any complaints/reports in this regard. The State Governments are to distribute imported pulses supplied by the PSUs to the State Governments for distribution through PDS.
- (d) In view of the (c) above, does not arise.

Irregularities in providing BPL cards

3891. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made a fresh survey of the BPL card holders in the country;
- (b) if so, the total BPL card holders at present and during last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether there were many irregularities in providing BPL cards in the country;
- (d) if so, whether Government has taken any corrective measures and found any body responsible for issuing BPL card to non-eligible person/family so far in the country; 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) Targeted Public Distribution

System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

The accepted number of BPL families is based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of Registrar General of India as on March 1st, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the accepted number of BPL families is 6.52 crore including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. A statement showing State-wise details of BPL card holders is given in the statement.

The State/UT Governments have issued more number of cards than the accepted number of BPL families as per the estimates of the Planning Commission. As reported upto March 2010, State and UT Governments have issued 11.08 crore BPL ration cards including 2.43 crore AAY cards.

The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002. For formulating the guidelines for conducting the next BPL census in rural areas, Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group to suggest the methodology, which has submitted its report in August, 2009. The guidelines for conducting the next BPL Census will be finalized by the Ministry of Rural Development in consultations with the State Governments and the concerned Ministries of the Central Government. The guidelines for identification of BPL families in urban areas will be finalized by Planning Commission in consultation with concerned Ministries.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified by the Government of India on 31st August, 2001. Clause 4 of this Order mandates the State/UT Governments to issue distinctive ration cards to Above Poverty Line (APL), BPL and AAY families, to conduct periodical review and checking of ration cards, to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in the ration cards. Instructions have also been issued to the State/UT Governments to carry out an intensive campaign from October to December, 2009 to review the existing list of BPL and AAY ration cards issued. As per reports received from State/UT Governments upto March 2010, 173.83 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards have been eliminated. As per reports received from Governments of Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh upto March 2010, 20 persons have been found to be involved in issuance of bogus/ineligible ration cards.

Statement

Number of Below Poverty Line Families Based on 1993-94 Poverty Estimates of Planning Commission and Population Estimates of Registrar General of India

(Figures in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of BPL Families as on 1.3.2000
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40.63
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.99
3.	Assam	18.36
4.	Bihar	65.23
5.	Chhattisgarh	18.75
6.	Delhi	4.09
7.	Goa	0.48
8.	Gujarat	21.20
9.	Haryana	7.89
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5.14
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.36
12.	Jharkhand	23.94
13.	Karnataka	31.29
14.	Kerala	15.54
15.	Madhya Pradesh	41.25
16.	Maharashtra	65.34
17.	Manipur	1.66
18.	Meghalaya	1.83
19.	Mizoram	0.68
20.	Nagaland	1.24
21.	Orissa	32.98
22.	Punjab	4.68
23.	Rajasthan	24.31

1	2	3
24.	Sikkim	0.43
25.	Tamil Nadu	48.63
26.	Tripura	2.95
27.	Uttar Pradesh	106.79
28.	Uttaranchal	4.98
29.	West Bengal	51.79
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.28
31.	Chandigarh	0.23
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.18
33.	Daman and Diu	0.04
34.	Lakshadweep	0.03
35.	Puducherry	0.84
TOTAL:		652.03

Sale of crops at below MSP

†3892. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India directly purchases rice, wheat, etc., from the farmers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that in many States particularly in poor States like Orissa, the farmer is compelled to sell his crops at the rate below to minimum support price;

(d) if so, the steps being considered by Food Corporation of India in such a situation; and

(e) whether such a distressed sale of crops is a main cause of suicide by farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) and agencies of State Governments purchase paddy, wheat and coarsegrains conforming to the prescribed specifications, directly from the farmers.

(c) No, Sir. FCI has intimated that no report regarding distress sale *i.e.* sale of paddy at less than Minimum Support Price (MSP) by farmers, has been received by

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.