

FCI. The total wheat allocation under OMSS now in 35 lakh tons, and total rice allocation is 10 lakh tons.

(xiv) The Government also contemplating bringing legislation on Food Security.

(B) **Medium Term Measures:**

In the medium term, Government has taken initiatives such as the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) to improve production and productivity in agriculture.

Universalization of PDS

1393. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States in the country that have introduced statutory rationing for essential commodities through Public Distribution Shops; and

(b) whether Government would take steps to implement universalized Public Distribution System for essential commodities in all States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (b) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Central Government and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The Central Government has taken the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of food grains to the States and UTs. The responsibilities for allocation of food grains within State/UT, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them and distribution of allocated food grains to eligible ration card holders through fair price shops (FPSs) and supervision of the functioning of FPSs, etc., rest with the State/UT Governments.

Food grains (rice and wheat) @ 35 kg per family per month are allocated to the State/UT Governments to 6.52 crore accepted number of BPL families, including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families for distribution at subsidized prices through Fair Price Shops. Depending upon their availability in Central pool, food grains are also allocated to Above Poverty Line (APL) families.

Presently, the allocations for APL category range between 10 and 35 kg of food grains per family per month.

There is no proposal to implement universalized Public Distribution System in the country.

Price hike due to increase in prices of petrol and diesel

1394. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of essential commodities like food grains, edible oil, pulses, vegetables and fruits have registered spiraling rise due to recent hike in petrol and diesel prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether action has been taken to control and check relative price rise of all commodities due to hike in diesel prices by wholesalers, retailers and shopkeepers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir. The prices of essential commodities like food grains, edible oil, pulses, vegetables and fruits have not registered spiraling rise due to recent hike in petrol and diesel prices.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Expenditure on transportation of food grains

†1395. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge expenditure is incurred on transportation of food grains first to storage godown and then to distribution outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof during last three years, year-wise;

(c) the quantum of food grains pilferaged during their transportation and storage and the price thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.