

(d) if so, whether it is necessary to reform this system before implementing the Food Security Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) 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 foodgrains to the States and UTs. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains 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 foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through fair price shops (FPSs) and supervision of the functioning of FPSs, etc., rest with the State/UT Governments. Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS.

The proposed National Food Security law envisages entitling every BPL family to a certain quantity of foodgrains per month at subsidized prices. The proposed law will also be used to bring about broader systemic reforms in the PDS.

Evaluation studies on functioning of TPDS got done by the Department, have revealed certain shortcomings in the functioning of TPDS.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families; ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops; ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS; improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels; and introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels. In the Conference of Food Secretaries of States and UTs held on 12th and 13th July 2010, various resolutions were adopted to further strengthen and streamline TPDS.

#### **Damage of wheat**

1381. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of wheat was found damaged by exposure to rain at an FCI warehouse at Hapur in Ghaziabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such damages have been reported from so many other Godowns in the country; and

(d) if so, the total quantity of foodgrains that got damaged due to stock keeping in the open during the current year and steps being taken to see that the precious foodgrains are not damaged like this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Stocks of wheat stored in open areas at Hapur FCI Depot got damaged due to exposure to recent rains. After segregation and salvaging operations, FCI has reported a damage of 9.3 tons of wheat.

Damage to wheat stocks in various FCI godowns during July 2010 have been reported by FCI as under:

States	Depots	Damaged wheat(tons)
Uttar Pradesh	Hapur	9.3
	Harduaganj	90
	FSD, Roza, Shahjahanpur	Damage yet to be quantified
	Orai, Jalaun	Damage yet to be quantified
Rajasthan	Udaipur, rail head	8.56
Haryana	HSWC, Bani	Damage yet to be quantified
Punjab	Khonuri, Sangrur	Damage yet to be quantified
Uttarakhand	SWC Gadarpur, Udham Singh Nagar	Damage yet to be quantified

In addition to damages in July, 2010 stated above, 30 tons of wheat got damaged due to stock kept in the open during April to June 2010 in FCI depots.

For proper handling and scientific storage of wheat and other stocks of foodgrains in FCI godowns, there are standing guidelines. These need to be followed strictly by FCI authorities. As per the guidelines, FCI has to take these steps:

- (i) All FCI godowns be constructed as per specifications and foodgrains stored by adopting scientific storage practices.
- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials, fumigation covers and chemicals be provided in all the godowns.
- (iii) Prophylactic and curative treatments be carried out regularly and timely for the control of stored grain insect pests and rodents.
- (iv) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates to be used as dunnage material. Stacks should be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (v) Regular inspections of the stocks/godowns be undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI.
- (vi) The principle of "First-In-First-Out" (FIFO) be adopted to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (vii) Only covered wagons be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damages during transit.
- (viii) Proper weighment and accounting be done at the time of receipt and issue.
- (ix) Transit losses in movement of foodgrains by rail be insured.
- (x) While transporting foodgrains from Depot to Rail head & vice-versa, escorts be provided.

#### **Re-introduction of universal PDS**

1382. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

- (a) whether Government is actively considering to re-introduce the Universal Public Distribution System to provide consumers protection against the food inflation;