

(a) whether it is a fact that it is being contemplated to provide food security to all citizens in the country;

(b) if so, whether in the course of discussion it has been decided to distribute 35 kg. foodgrains at Rs. 3 per kg. under food security in 2000 poorest blocks of the country so far;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and whether any time-frame has been set in this regard to put the system in place; 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) to (d) As announced by the President in her address to the joint session of Parliament on 04.06.2009, the Government is committed to enact a National Food Security Act which, *inter-alia*, envisages entitling every family below poverty line to certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. Details of the proposed legislation are being worked out by an EGoM constituted to examine various aspects of the proposed law. Based on directions of EGoM, the draft Bill would be prepared by the Department of Food and Public Distribution in consultation with the Ministry of Law and the same would be put on the website of the Department for public scrutiny and comments.

Shortcomings in PDS

†1380. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that success of food security related scheme depends on the working of present public distribution system in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several Government appointed committees have exposed the loopholes in the Present Public Distribution System to Government over the years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(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: