

except in the case of Assam, Bihar and Mizoram. These reports have been sent to the concerned State Governments for taking necessary remedial measures to streamline TPDS.

Setting-up of Central Food Security Fund

2144. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to set up a Central Food Security Fund to monetarily compensate the Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) who fail to get 35 kilograms of wheat or rice per family per month at a subsidized rate of Rs. 3 per kg;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is being implemented in any State; 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) The details of the proposed National Food Security Act are being worked out by an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted to consider the issues concerning the proposed law. Based on directions of EGoM, a draft Bill will be prepared and placed on the website of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

Reforms in TPDS

2145. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has called for reforms to make the Targeted Public Distribution System more efficient and responsive to the changing "socio-economic milieu";

(b) if so, the details of drastic changes Government proposes to make in the Targeted Public Distribution System;

(c) whether views of the State Governments on the proposed TPDS has been examined; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the revised TPDS is likely to be implemented?

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 Government of India and State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. Reviewing the functioning of TPDS is a continuous process. For the smooth functioning of TPDS, Government has been periodically holding consultations/conferences with State Governments/UT Administrations. A Conference to share the Best Practices and Reforms in TPDS was also held recently on 12th and 13th July 2010 wherein various issues were discussed. These issues relate among others to proper identification of beneficiaries, timely distribution of foodgrains, enhancing viability of fair price shops, enhancing storage capacities, use of technology based initiatives in TPDS and increasing public awareness.

Implementation of de-centralized procurement scheme

2146. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Decentralized Procurement Scheme (DCP) was introduced in 1997-98 for effecting savings, enhancing efficiency of procurement and encouraging local procurement for the benefit of farmers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even after a gap of more than 13 years, the DCP scheme has been undertaken only by 6 States for wheat and 10 States for rice, respectively;

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government to insist the remaining States to adopt DCP scheme; 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) Yes, Sir. The Scheme of Decentralised Procurement (DCP) of food grains was introduced in 1997-98 with a view to enhance the efficiency of procurement & PDS and to encourage local procurement and reduce out go of food subsidy. The DCP states undertake the responsibility of procurement of food grains, its scientific storage and