

(a) the steps taken by Government to safeguard economic interest of the producers of fertilizers of Gujarat State due to levy of 2.5% of additional VAT as Gujarat State Government has shown its inability to provide relief to fertilizer producers of the State;

(b) whether Government has any intention for reimbursement of this additional VAT as Subsidy from backdate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Certain States including Gujarat have levied recently additional VAT which is currently not recognized for reimbursement in current subsidy regime. Various options to address the problem are under examination.

#### **Sale of wheat and paddy through middlemen**

2921. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed farmers in the country to sale wheat/paddy through middlemen;

(b) whether it is a fact that this facility is not available to farmers of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government consider it appropriate to provide this facility to farmers of Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan do procure through Arhthia.

In Uttar Pradesh Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies have been asked to open adequate number of procurement centres in the procuring districts. The Government of India is committed to purchase all the quantity of paddy/wheat brought in by the farmers in the procurement centres/mandis. In order to maximise procurement, Self Help Groups and Cooperative Societies are

encouraged to procure and a commission of 2.5% of MSP during KMS & 2% of MSP during RMS is extended to them.

**Monitoring system for proper utilization of food subsidy**

2922. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerned over the ineffective Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and to ensure early enacting of the National Food Security Act, the Union Government is considering setting up of an effective monitoring system to ensure proper utilization of food subsidy given to States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the absence of any monitoring system, the actual BPL families are deprived of the benefits of PDS and the foodgrains are reaching in open market for black-marketing; and

(d) if so, to what extent the monitoring system will curb such malpractice?

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 operated under the joint responsibility of Central Government and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for lifting and distributing the allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible card holders through the fair price shops (FPSs) are that of the State/UT Governments.

Allocations of foodgrains are made to States/UTs under TPDS for distribution to 6.52 crore accepted number of BPL/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), families @ 35 kg. per family per month. Allocations of foodgrains are also made to Above Poverty Line (APL) families based on the