

(a) whether it is a fact that people are dying due to starvation in many States despite the availability of sufficient food stock in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that India ranks 66th in the list of 88 countries figuring in the Global Hunger Index prepared by International Food Policy Research Institute; and

(e) 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 (c) As per reports received from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, no incident of starvation death has taken place in any State/Union Territory.

(d) and (e) International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has brought out a Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report in October, 2009. In this report, India ranks 65 out of 84 nations. The GHI Report, 2009 is based on data from 2002 to 2007 relating to three factors, namely (i) percentage of undernourished in the population, 2003-05; (ii) percentage of under-weight in children under five, 2002-07 and (iii) under-five mortality, 2007.

Inclusion of APL families under Food Security Bill

2942. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether EGoM on Food Security Bill has finalized the figure of poverty estimates;

(b) whether the EGoM is considering to include APL families in the proposed Food Security Bill;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the estimated financial burden if APL families are included in the Food Law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted to consider various issues concerning the proposed law on food security, has requested

Planning Commission to finalise poverty estimates for determining numbers of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. Various issues relating to the proposed National Food Security Act, including eligibility of families for coverage, subsidy implications, etc. are under consideration of EGoM.

Sale of wheat by FCI to check inflation

†2943. 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 Empowered Group of Ministers had permitted to sell 50 lakh tonnes of wheat in open market in July, 2010 to check the inflation of food products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether small traders can purchase a truckload of wheat from the nearby FCI godowns under this decision;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that FCI has offered to sell wheat at higher rate than the selling price of wheat in open market; and

(d) if so, the selling price of FCI in different cities and the details of the quantity of wheat purchased by small traders under this selling price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) in its meeting on 10th June, 2010 had directed that Department of Food may place proposals to off-load about 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains in the next ten months from the Central Pool stocks. A proposal accordingly was submitted to EGoM on 25.6.2010. EGoM, on the proposal submitted by Department of Food and Public Distribution directed that FCI can sell wheat to traders from FCI godowns. However, no quantity for sale was specified.

(b) Any private trader can purchase 3-9 tonnes of wheat per trader per depot per day from nominated depot of FCI under Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic).

(c) and (d) The State/UT wise applicable rates for sale to small (private) traders which is also the reserve price for tender sale to bulk consumers is given in the statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.