

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

availability of foodgrains in the central pool and past offtake. Presently, the allocation of foodgrains to APL families ranges between 10 kg. and 35 kg. per family per month.

The Department releases food subsidy to only those State Governments which are undertaking decentralized procurement in their respective States. It is released on the basis of actual offtake of foodgrains under TPDS and Other Welfare Schemes and submission of utilization certificate in respect of amount released earlier in each quarter on provisional basis amounting to 95% of their respective admissible claims. 5% of remaining admissible claims is released on submission of audited accounts by State 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.

Monitoring 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 FPSs, 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 on Best Practices and Reforms in TPDS held on 12th & 13th July, 2010, the above directions have been reiterated.

#### **Wastage of foodgrains**

2923. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of storage of foodgrains, pulses and oil seeds across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of foodgrains procured from farmers during last three years;
- (d) the details of foodgrains rotted/ wasted due to rain/floods during last three years; and