

(d) if so, the total quantity of wheat and rice to be supplied under scheme to States and to what extent this scheme has been helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Apart from the normal allocation of foodgrains made under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to States/UTs, the Government has made a Special *ad hoc* additional allocation of a total of 10.62 lakh tonnes of rice and 25.46 lakh tonnes of wheat, for the months of January and February, 2010, @ 10 kg. for all accepted number of families including the Above Poverty Line (APL) category under TPDS, at Minimum Support Prices (MSP) based price of wheat @ Rs. 10.80/- per kg. and MSP derived prices of rice @ Rs. 14.93/- per kg. for Common variety of rice and Rs. 15.37/- per kg. for Grade 'A' rice. These allocations were required to be lifted by the States/Union Territories (UTs) upto 25th May, 2010. A total of 9.22 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was lifted by the States/UTs against this allocation.

The Government made a further special *ad hoc* additional of 30.66 lakh tonnes of foodgrains comprising 13.80 lakh tonnes of rice and 16.86 lakh tonnes of wheat to all the States and UTs for the accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families under TPDS on 19th May, 2010. The above allocations have been made at a subsidized price of Rs. 11.85/- per kg. for rice and Rs. 8.45 per kg. of wheat. The States/UTs have been allowed to lift the allocated quantities upto 20th November, 2010. Against this allocation, as on 25.8.2010, a quantity of 7.52 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been lifted by the States/UTs.

#### **Subsidy on imported Palmolien**

3404. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imported Palmolien is given a subsidy of Rs. 15/- (Rupees Fifteen) per litre for distribution through PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the coconut oil produced in India is not being given such a subsidy;

(d) whether Government of Kerala has requested for providing subsidies @ Rs. 15/- (Rupees Fifteen) per litre to coconut oil for distribution through PDS;

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(f) the reason why the Palmolien farmers in foreign countries are indirectly helped while the coconut growers are given a raw deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) In order to give relief to consumers from rising prices and to augment domestic availability of edible oils in the country, the Government of India had implemented a 'Scheme for distribution of subsidized imported

edible oils through States/UTs' during 2008-09 with a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg. till January, 2009 and thereafter Rs. 25/- per kg. upto March, 2009 on edible oil imported by the PSUs and handed over to the States/UTs for distribution to ration card holders at a rate 1 litre per month per family. The Scheme has been extended upto 31.10.2010 envisages an import of upto 10 lakh tonnes of edible oils with a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg. of imported edible oil handed over to States for distribution.

(c) to (f) Subsidy under the 'Scheme for distribution of subsidised imported edible oils through States/UTs' is restricted to edible oils imported by PSUs and supplied to the States/UTs for distribution, and that the Scheme had no provision to subsidise domestic oils including coconut oil. The purpose of the Scheme is to provide relief to consumers and to augment domestic availability of edible oils.

Vide its letters dated 12.8.2008, 29.3.2008, 23.6.2009 and 25.6.2009, the Government of Kerala had requested that the subsidy given under the above Scheme may be allowed for coconut oil.

The Government of Kerala had been informed that the subsidy under the Scheme is restricted to edible oils imported by PSUs and there is no provision to subsidise domestic oils including coconut oil.

#### **Hunger deaths**

3405. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is thinking of universalisation of Public Distribution System in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure no hunger death in the country; and
- (c) the details of hunger death in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) With a view to specifically target poor sections of society for distribution of subsidized foodgrains (rice, wheat and coarse grains) and sugar, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in June, 1997. Government is not considering to introduce Universal Public Distribution System.

As per reports received from State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations, no incidence of starvation deaths have been reported by them. However, to mitigate the effect of hunger the Government has been implementing the following schemes for providing foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through the State/UT Governments.

Foodgrains (wheat and rice) are allocated to 6.52 crore accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families under the