

offtake,' foodgrains are also allocated at subsidized prices to Above Poverty Line (APL) families. Presently, the allocations of foodgrains to APL families range between 15 kg. and 35 kg. per family per month.

In addition to allocation of foodgrains under TPDS, the Government makes allocations of foodgrains under other Welfare Schemes such as Midday Meal Scheme and Wheat based Nutrition Programme also. Further, this Department has been making additional allocation of foodgrains to the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations in case of emergencies like floods, droughts, etc. Additional allocation of foodgrains has also been made from time to time depending upon the availability of stocks and requirement/requests received from States/UTs.

However, despite the allocation of foodgrains as above, some quantity of foodgrains may get damaged due to various reasons.

Pricing of ethanol

2705. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had written to the Prime Minister seeking his intervention on the issue of pricing of ethanol for Government's ambitious blending programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Minister for Agriculture had communicated the views of the Ministry regarding the Expert Committee recommendations on Pricing of Ethanol.

(c) The final recommendations of the Expert Committee set up by Ministry of Petroleum and National Gas are awaited.

Global Hunger Index

2706. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has witnessed only 23 per cent reduction in Global Hunger Index (GHI) between 1990 and 2010 as compared to China's performance where the GHI has fallen by a huge 48 per cent during the same period;

(b) whether according to the GHI which was recently released India's performance contradicts the inverse correlation between its income levels and GHI scores; and