

(rice, wheat and coarse grains) and sugar, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in 1997. 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 of the State/UT Governments.

Under TPDS, foodgrains @ 35 kg. per family per month are allocated to States/Union Territories for 6.52 crore accepted number of BPL/AAY families for distribution at subsidized prices through Fair Price Shops. Depending upon their availability in Central Pool, foodgrains are also allocated to Above Poverty Line (APL) families. Presently, the allocations for APL category range between 15 and 35 kg. foodgrains per family per month.

There is no proposal before the Government to entrust TPDS to other institutions.

(d) Foodgrains get damaged due to various reasons such as storage pest attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, during movement of stocks, exposure to rains, floods, etc. There are existing instructions issued by Government for proper storage and upkeep of foodgrains. Government has reiterated these instructions and directed Food Corporation of India (FCI) as well as State Governments/agencies to monitor effectively observance of these steps and ensure proper storage of foodgrains. However, this Department is not in receipt of opinion that rotting grains violate the sanctity of food and the people right to it.

Food management system

1911. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite record grains production in the country and sufficient stocks with Government, archaic rules continue to hinder effective food management system;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the disbursement of grains to State Governments through PDS is based on any formula;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Union Government has adopted any flexibility in the rules of formula to quickly release foodgrains to State Governments; and
- (f) 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 (f) No, Sir. As per existing policy, allocations of foodgrains are made under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Below Poverty Line (BPL), including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg. per family per month on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission and population projection of the Registrar General of India as of March, 2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less. Allocation of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of stocks in the Central Pool and past offtake by States. Presently, these allocations range between 15 and 35 kg. per family per month in different States/UTs.

Considering surplus availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, Government has made Special additional allocations of 122.80 lakh tonnes of foodgrains over and above normal TPDS allocations to States/UTs during the current calendar year. Allocation of foodgrains are also made to States for calamity relief based on requests received from them.

Government also makes allocation of foodgrains under different Welfare Schemes, which include Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme and Annapurna Yojana as per assessed requirement under these schemes.

**Foodgrains allocation to States on basis of their
estimation of BPL families**

1912. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has urged Government to allocate foodgrains to all States for the Public Distribution System going by the number of below poverty line families estimated by the States under Central norms; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has suggested that Government of India may consider:—

- (i) increase in quantum of food supply to the population below poverty line, and
- (ii) distribute foodgrains to deserving population at very low or no cost.

In pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's suggestion, the Government has made a special *ad hoc* allocation of a total of 25 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to all States/UTs in September, 2010 for distribution to BPL families at BPL issue prices for 6 months.