

(c) whether procurement of paddy has since been resumed; if not, by when that is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. There was no specific protest against procurement policy of Food Corporation of India (FCI). However, there were some quality related protests in certain pockets of Sangrur and other parts of Punjab during current paddy procurement season.

(b) The farmers demanded relaxation of uniform specifications regarding quality of paddy to be procured. After consulting the State Government and FCI, the uniform specifications were relaxed in Punjab for procurement of paddy.

(c) In most of the districts of Punjab, paddy procurement has been hassle free even before relaxation in quality parameters of paddy. After relaxation, paddy procurement has been smooth all over in Punjab.

Foodgrains under AAY

1924. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Advisory Council (NAC) has strongly recommended to bear the cost of supplying grains to the poorest section of the society under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and other similar schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that poor section of the society will get 35 kg. of wheat, rice and millets at Rs. 2, Rs. 3 and Re. 1 per kg.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total quantity of foodgrains required annually for above section of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) National Advisory Council (NAC) has finalized its recommendations on the proposed National Food Security Bill in its meeting on 23rd October, 2010. It has, *inter-alia*, recommended that legal entitlements to subsidized foodgrains should be extended to at least 75% of the country's population — 90% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas. It has also recommended two categories, namely "priority" and "general". Priority category is expected to cover 46% households in rural areas and 28% in urban areas. General category is expected to cover 44% households in rural areas and 22% in urban areas. It has also been recommended that priority households should have a monthly entitlement of 35 kgs (equivalent to 7 kgs per person) at a subsidized rate of Re. 1 per kg. for millets, Rs. 2 for wheat and Rs. 3 for rice. The NAC has estimated the annual requirement of foodgrains for priority and general households as 63.59 million tonnes.