

(c) whether there is any plan to expand the BPL system to more people by removing unreasonable criterion; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Planning Commission is the nodal agency of the Government of India for estimating poverty at national and state levels. For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per 1993-94 poverty estimates, the percentage of population living below poverty line at all India level is 36%.

As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.44 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. However, some State/UT Governments have reported the issuance of ration cards to BPL families at variance with the accepted number of BPL families.

The guidelines for identification of BPL families in rural areas are issued by the Ministry of Rural Development. In association with States/UTs, the Ministry of Rural Development conducts the BPL Census to identify rural households living below the poverty line.

Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group to suggest methodology for conducting the next BPL census in rural areas. The Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena submitted its Report.

For urban areas, an expert group has been constituted by the Planning Commission to recommend a common methodology for identification of BPL households in the urban areas.

#### **Foodgrains destroyed in Government storages**

1914. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains damaged and/or destroyed in the Government stockyards or otherwise in the country, during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether Supreme Court has expressed its concern over the matter and advised Government to distribute these foodgrains free to the poor;

(c) how Government has responded to the situation; and

(d) the details of the manners in which Government plans to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As reported by Food Corporation of India, details of region-wise stocks of foodgrains accrued as damaged/non-issuable during the last three years and current year with FCI are at Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Hon'ble Supreme Court expressed concern over reports of damaged central pool foodgrains and suggested to Government to take some long term steps like creation of adequate storage facilities and short term measures like increase in quantum of foodgrains supply to BPL population and distribution of foodgrains to deserving population at very low cost or no cost. In view of surplus stocks of foodgrains available in central pool and suggestion of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Government has allocated to State and Union Territories additional quantity of 25 lakh tons foodgrains in September, 2010 and January, 2011 each time on *ad hoc* basis at BPL prices. Further 25 lakh tons of additional allocation at prices of Rs. 8.45 and Rs. 11.85 per kg. for wheat and rice respectively have also been made in January, 2011 for APL category of ration card holders.

(d) Steps taken by Government to avoid damage of foodgrains in storage are as given in Statement-II. [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 1895 (Part c)].

#### **Statement**

*Details of region-wise stock of foodgrains accrued as damaged/non-issuable during last three years and current year (upto January, 2011) in FCI*

(Figure in tons)

Sl.No	Region	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bihar	5858	14	726	200
2.	Jharkhand	57	15	17	39
3.	Orissa	759	84	0	18
4.	West Bengal	789	1789	1357	922
5.	Assam	151	83	38	49
6.	North Eastern Frontier Provinces (NEF)	141	212	77	175

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Nagaland and Manipur (N&M)	362	6	0	1
8.	Delhi	0	0	5	1
9.	Haryana	0	16	0	55
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	11	0
11.	Punjab	23118	16798	2273	182
12.	Rajasthan	18	0	12	21
13.	Uttar Pradesh	40	62	14	520
14.	Uttarakhand	0	4	0	1338
15.	Andhra Pradesh	139	0	0	3
16.	Kerala	42	98	19	99
17.	Karnataka	1459	74	70	17
18.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	1	12
19.	Gujarat	326	655	814	2595
20.	Maharashtra	591	189	245	97
21.	Madhya Pradesh	76	14	49	2
22.	Chhattisgarh	499	0	974	2
TOTAL		34426	20114	6702	6348

#### Working of SFIO

1915. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases currently being pursued by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO);
- (b) the success rate of the investigation of SFIO during the last couple of years;
- (c) the major investigations pursued and completed by SFIO in the recent years;
- (d) whether Government is considering to give more teeth to the working of SFIO; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?