

Storage of foodgrains

1907. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country has produced a record food crops during 2010-11, particularly wheat and pulses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any measures to properly store the foodgrains; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per 2nd Advanced Estimates of Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation dated 9.2.2011, the estimated production of wheat, rice and pulses in 2010-11 crop year is 81.47 million tons, 94.01 million tons and 16.51 million tons, respectively.

(c) and (d) The procurement of wheat and rice has increased during the last three years and has put pressure on existing storage capacity. Additional storage capacity is created under Covered and Plinth (CAP) from time to time depending upon the additional food grains to be kept. For augmentation of the over all covered storage capacity, the Government has given approval for construction of about 150 lakh tones of additional covered storage capacity in 19 states in the country under the guaranteed scheme of FCI for construction of godowns through private entrepreneurs and central and state Warehousing Corporations.

Irregularity in PDS

1908. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received complaints of alleged corruption/irregularities in the Public Distribution System (PDS) including allocation and supply to various States;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases/complaints reported during the last one year;
- (c) whether any punitive action has been taken against the erring persons/officials for such irregularities during that period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken to curb corruption in PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. 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 allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

During 2010, 174 complaints have been received from individuals and organizations, as well as through press reports, regarding irregularities in implementation of TPDS.

Complaints received by the Central Government about implementation of TPDS are sent to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for inquiry and necessary action. Further action against officials/persons is taken by the respective State Government/UT Administration. During 2010, action against 6374 persons has been reported by States/UTs for contravention of the provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001.

Government has issued directions to State Governments to streamline functioning of TPDS by enforcing provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001. Government has regularly reviewed and also has issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

India's position in Global Hunger Index

1909. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India continues to languish in the Global Hunger Index despite availability of surplus foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether despite foodgrains being provided to BPL cardholders at a considerably subsidized rate, the nutritional requirement is not met; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to ascertain the factors responsible for malnutrition inspite of surplus foodgrains?