

Non-issuance of ration cards for BPL families

1894. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of eligible BPL persons have not been issued ration cards as per their entitlement and the benefits meant for them are being misappropriated by other persons using bogus cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government has launched/proposes to launch any campaign at the national level to eliminate bogus cards and issue cards to all the eligible families; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) 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 Governments.

In terms of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001, State/UT Governments are to review the lists of BPL and AAY families every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. The exercise of deletion of bogus/ineligible cards and inclusion of eligible families is a continuous process and State Governments are to periodically carry out the same.

In consultation with the State/UT Governments, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which *inter-alia* includes continuous review of BPL/AAY lists and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards alongwith strict action to be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. Instructions were also issued to all State/UT Governments to carry out an intensive campaign from October, 2009 to December, 2009 to review the existing lists of BPL/AAY families and eliminate ineligible/bogus ration cards. As a result thereof, 26 State/UT Governments have reported by 31.01.2011, deletion of 208.57 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards.

Safe storage of foodgrains

†1895. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that paddy of the value of crores of rupees has gone waste due to unseasonal rainfall in February, 2011 in Narela mandi in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken against such persons who were responsible to store it safely; and

(c) the action taken for safe storage of foodgrains after the order of Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As informed by Food Corporation of India, no paddy stock of central pool foodgrains has got damaged due to unseasonal rains in February, 2011 in Narela mandi in Delhi.

(c) The steps taken by Government to avoid damage of central pool foodgrains in storage are given in Statement.

Statement

The steps taken by Government to avoid damage of food grains in storage.

State Governments and Food Corporation of India have been instructed from time to time to take required measures for proper and safe storage of foodgrains in covered godowns and in CAP storage. Recently such instructions to all State Governments/UTs and FCI, for steps to be taken for proper preservation and safe storage of central pool stocks of foodgrains have been reiterated on 24th January, 2011 for:

- (i) Sensitisation of all field functionaries;
- (ii) Carrying out inspection of stocks of foodgrains by senior officers;
- (iii) Monitoring of observance of these steps on regular basis; and
- (iv) For taking strict disciplinary action against delinquents.

The following precautionary and remedial steps are taken/to be taken by F.C.I. and State Government agencies to check damages to central pool stocks of foodgrains:

- (i) All godowns are to be constructed as per specifications.
- (ii) Foodgrains are to be stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are to be used to check migration of moisture from the floor.
- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are to be provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are to be carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.

- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are to be used.
- (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are to be used as dunnage material. Stacks are to be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water-proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff including senior officers.
- (ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is to be followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.

In order to increase the covered storage capacity, Government has formulated a scheme for construction of godowns of about 150 lakh tons capacity through Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) and private entrepreneurs. Out of this, CWC & SWC are constructing 5.31 and 10.64 lakh tons capacity respectively under the scheme. In addition, during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, Rs. 149 crores have been provided for construction of storage godowns of 1.88 lakh tons capacity by FCI and State Governments.

Food inflation

1896. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an assurance was given to the Chief Ministers' Conference in February, 2010 that the worst of food inflation was over;
- (b) if so, whether that assurance was implemented; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister of India during his speech in the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 6th February, 2010 stated that he believed that the worst is over as far as the food inflation was concerned.

The WPI based food inflation rate (%) of primary food articles after having risen to 22.27% for the week ended 6.2.2010 and then having reached a peak of 22.93% for the week ended 12.6.2010 declined to 9.52% for the week ended 26.2.2011.