

(b) whether Government is considering to introduce any such scheme throughout the country; 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) to (c) Government allocates rice & wheat to all the 35 States & Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) @ 35 kg, per family per month for the accepted number of 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) including 2.44 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. The tribal population is also covered under the above allocation.

As per guidelines issued by the Government of India, all primitive tribal families are to be covered under AAY for whom foodgrains are issued at very low price of Rs.2 per kg of wheat and Rs.3 per kg of rice. In the case of BPL families, the Central Issue prices are Rs.4.15 per kg of wheat and Rs.5.65 per kg of rice. The Central Government bears a subsidy of Rs.17.69 per kg rice and Rs.13.81 per kg of wheat in the case of AAY families and Rs. 15.04 per kg of rice and Rs. 11.66 per kg of wheat in the case of BPL families.

Augmentation of storage capacity

3456. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL :

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court had passed strictures against the Government last year for not storing the foodgrains by FCI, as a result of which lakhs of tonnes of foodgrains were lost in the rain, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government in view of Supreme Court's observation, had augmented the storage capacity of FCI to preserve the foodgrains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) In view of reports of damages to Central Pool

stocks of foodgrains in some godowns of FCI and State agencies during last year, Hon'ble Supreme Court expressed concern and suggested to Government to take some long term and short term measures. While creation of adequate storage facilities was suggested for the long term, increase in quantum of food supply to BPL population and distribution of foodgrains to deserving population at very low cost or no cost was to be taken up in the short term.

In pursuance of the aforesaid, during the current year 2011-12 besides allocating a quantity of 488.71 lakh tons of foodgrains (which includes 50 lakh tons additional APL allocation) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), an ad hoc additional allocation of 50 lakh tons of rice and wheat has been made to States/UTs in May, 2011 at BPL issue prices for distribution to BPL families upto March, 2012. Further, in pursuance to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's direction, in its order dated 14.5.2011 to allocate additional quantity of foodgrains to the 150 poorest districts in the country for distribution to extremely poor and vulnerable sections of the society, the Government has allocated 3,87,670.65 tons of foodgrains at BPL /AAY issue prices for three months for poor families identified in 74 districts of 13 States as per recommendations of Central Vigilance Committee on PDS set-up by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) to (e) In order to create additional covered storage space, Government has formulated a scheme for construction of godowns through private entrepreneurs under Private Public Partnership mode with a view to reduce dependence on CAP (Open Storage) by construction of covered godowns both in procurement as well as consumption areas. A capacity of about 152.97 lakh tons has been planned for 19 States under the Scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.31 and 15.49 lakh tons respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 3.5 lakh tons has already been completed.

In the 11th Five Year Plan an allocation of Rs. 154.82 crores has also been made to FCI for construction of storage godowns, which will also result in addition of another about 1.2 lakh tons of storage capacity. This Department has also prepared a proposal for construction of additional storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tons in the North Eastern States by Food Corporation of India (FCI) with a total allocation of Rs. 568.17 crores. The proposal of the Department has been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in its meeting held on 1.07.2011.