

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) The retail prices of vegetables such as potato and tomato showed steady to declining trend whereas the prices of onion had registered a marginal increase over the last two years in 4 metros viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. Seasonal factors as well as weather impact on the prices of vegetables. Government had taken various steps to reduce the prices of vegetables such as onion by calibrating the minimum export price (MEP) of onion to control the exports of onion and thereby contain their price rise. For instance, in December, 2010, Government reduced the import duty of onion to zero. NAFED and NCCF were authorized to import onion and losses on account of import were reimbursed to NAFED/NCCF on sales of onion, with a cap on the losses at 30% of landed cost for a period of one month upto 31.1.2011. In addition, Government of India provides assistance under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh (TMNE) schemes for increasing production and setting up of terminal markets, wholesale markets and rural primary markets/apni mandies to ensure adequate supply of fruits and vegetables to the consumers at reasonable prices and also to provide remunerative returns to the farmers.

Rotting of foodgrains

†2803. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

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

(a) the reasons for rotting of wheat and other foodgrains stocked in Government warehouses in various parts of the country;

(b) whether Government has discontinued the grant scheme aimed at encouraging the construction of warehouses and if so, whether this scheme would be revived;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has recently ordered the Government to distribute surplus foodgrains among poor instead of letting it to rot;

(d) if so, whether Government is acting on court's decision; and

(e) the places where such foodgrains have already been distributed, as on date?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Some quantity of foodgrains may get damaged/become non-issuable due to various reasons, such as storage pest attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, spillage during movement and handling of stocks, exposure to rains, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc.

(b) The Government gives grants in aid only to the State Governments of North-East States, including Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir for construction of storage godowns, to meet their storage requirement. The Government of India has also launched “Grameen Bhandaran Yojana” with effect from 01.04.2001. The main objectives of the scheme include creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet out various requirements of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce, agricultural inputs etc. and prevention of distress sale. The scheme will continue during the whole period of Eleventh Plan with a target of 90 lakh tonnes of capacity and a budget allocation of Rs. 400 crores.

(c) to (e) 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. State-wise districts covered so far are as under:—

State	District
1	2
Himachal Pradesh	Chamba and Sirmaur
Uttarakhand	Tehri
Rajasthan	Banswara, Dungarpur, Udaipur, Sirohi, Karoli, Jhalawar and Pratapgarh
Bihar	Araria, Vaishali, Gaya, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Nawadah, Samastipur, Sheohar, Katihar, Jamui, Lakhisarai, Mongher, Purnea, Supaul and Darbhanga
Manipur	Tamenglong
Jharkhand	Sarakela, Singhbhum West, Godda, Simdega, Gumla, Chatra, Garhwa, Palamu, Latehar, Lohardagga, Dumka, Jamtara, Sahebganj and Pakur

1	2
Haryana	Mahendergarh and Sirsa
Jammu and Kashmir	Doda, Kupwara and Poonch
Kerala	Palakkad and Waynad
Madhya Pradesh	Jhabua, Mandla, Umaria, Shahdol, Barwani, Khargone, Shivpuri, Sidhi, Tikamgarh, Balaghat, Chhatarpur, Betul, Khandwa, Sheopur and Dhar
Chhattisgarh	Bastar, Dantewada, Kanker, Korla, Sarguja, Jaspur, Dhamtari, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Rajnandgaon,
Sikkim	North District Sikkim
Tripura	Dhalai

Failure of PDS

2804. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the World Food Programme of the United Nations and the Swaminathan Research Foundation, PDS has failed to achieve its objective;

(b) whether according to the performance evaluation report of the Planning Commission of 2003-04, out of an estimated budgetary consumer subsidy of Rs. 7,258 crore (for only 16 States) as much as Rs. 4,197 crore did not reach the BPL households and Government spends Rs. 3.65 to just transfer Re. 1 to the intended beneficiary;

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

(d) the steps taken to revamp PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) In the Report on the State of Food Insecurity in Rural India (December, 2008), prepared by World Food Programme and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, it has been mentioned that taking an overall view, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has not achieved its stated objectives. However, the report also mentions that the PDS has served the country well and that though there were several operational problems including inefficiencies and leakages, PDS had played a crucial role in ensuring access to foodgrain for a significant proportion of the population that would otherwise have gone hungry.

As per the report of the Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of the Planning Commission on Performance Evaluation of TPDS (March, 2005), during 2003-04, out of an