

(b) whether pulses have been imported to smoothen the domestic supply thereof; and

(c) if so, the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the 4th advance estimates released by the Ministry of Agriculture, on 19.07.2011, the production of pulses during 2010-11 stood at 18.09 million tonnes. The retail prices of pulses such as tur dal, moong dal, masoor dal and urad dal have showed a steady to declining trend over the last one year in 4 metros viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai

(b) Yes, Sir. Pulses are imported to meet the demand and supply gap.

(c) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics data (provisional), during 2010-11 a quantity of 26 lakh tonnes of pulses was imported.

**Salaries for fair price shops' staff**

†2815. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Advisory Committee (NAC) has recommended to pay salaries alongwith the commission to persons running fair price shops;

(b) if so, the reasons given by NAC for the recommendations; and

(c) by when Government would declare its decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The National Food Security Bill, 2011 finalized by the National Advisory Council (NAC) and sent for consideration of the Government in July, 2011 *inter alia* provides that the State Government shall ensure that the Fair Price Shops are financially viable by ensuring that reasonable commissions and operational costs are provided in a time bound manner.

Based on recommendations of the NAC and Expert Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and comments/suggestions received from the Central Ministries/Departments, States/UTs, experts and other stakeholders, the Government have prepared a draft National Food Security Bill. After consultations with States and Union Territories on the Draft Bill,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

approval of Government at the appropriate level will be obtained before its introduction in the Parliament.

#### Functioning of PDS

†2816. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the States in the country where Public Distribution System (PDS) network is functioning effectively;
- (b) whether this system could not give required results in some States;
- (c) if so, the names of such States and whether any efforts have been made by Government to ascertain the reasons for success of this system;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, by when it would be ascertained?

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 Central Government and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The 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 lifting and distributing the allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible card holders through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are of the State/UT Governments.

Central Government allocates foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States/UTs under the TPDS @ 35 kg. per family per month to the accepted number of 6.52 crore BPL families, including about 2.44 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. A State-wise Statement on the allocation/offtake of foodgrains from 2008-2009 to 2010-11 is given in Statement (See below).

TPDS has been strengthened and streamlined over the years. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.