

(a) whether it is a fact that allocation of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families is made;

(b) if so, the quantity of foodgrains allocated to them; and

(c) the number of families provided foodgrains under this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), allocation of food grains is made for 11.52 crore Above Poverty Line (APL) families. Presently, the monthly allocation of food grains ranges between 15 kg and 35 kg for APL family in different States/UTs. The annual allocation of foodgrains to APL families during 2011-12 is 211.87 lakh M.Ts.

Scrutiny of PDS

2041. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Task Force constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), was also given the task of examining the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms of reference for this purpose; and

(d) by when the report is likely to be presented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) A Task Force had been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) in February, 2011 to recommend and implement a solution for direct transfer of subsidies on Kerosene, LPG and Fertilizer to the intended beneficiaries.

The terms of reference of the Task Force were extended to the reforms of Public Distribution System (PDS) in July 2011, so as to include the following:

- i. Identify and suggest required changes in the existing systems, processes and procedures, IT frameworks and supply chain management;
- ii. Recommend institutional mechanisms to implement the IT strategy for PDS; and

- iii. Examine and suggest an implementable solution for direct transfer of subsidies on food and kerosene to intended beneficiaries with the use of Aadhaar numbers (Unique Identification numbers), Aadhaar enabled transactions and Aadhaar authentication infrastructure.

The Task Force has submitted its report to the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 02.11.2011.

Subsidy for APL and BPL families

2042. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is giving rice and wheat subsidy for more APL and BPL families for the current year, due to drought and floods in some parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, during the last three years, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the actual demands pending from each State in this regard; and
- (d) by when action would be taken on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. Food subsidy is not provided directly for the families affected by drought and floods in any State. However, Government makes additional allocations of subsidised foodgrains, over and above the normal allocations under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to State Governments on their requests to meet additional requirement of foodgrains for families affected from natural calamities like drought, floods etc.

(b) The details of State-wise additional allocations of foodgrains made for drought and floods relief etc. during the last three years and the current year is given in the Statement-I and II (See below).

(c) and (d) A request for allotment of 1.00 lakh tonnes of rice for drought relief has been received from Government of West Bengal which is under consideration.