

compared to the previous years. Again our State is among the States which have the highest transmission losses. We have submitted certain projects to revamp the transmission and distribution system in the State. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he knows that the power which can be used in Kargil is not being used. We are not in a position to use it because NHPC has failed to put in place the transmission and distribution system and whether he will expedite the projects to reduce the transmission and distribution loss in Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, it is a little difficult there and the work has been going on. But I accept the anxiety of the hon. Member and I will ask the officers of the NHPC to speed up the work. We will take cognizance of it because we need to concentrate more on this border area and we will take care of it.

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधू: सर, कोयले की पर्याप्त आपूर्ति न होने के कारण विद्युत उत्पादन व अन्य उत्पादन प्रभावित होने की बात कही गई है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के ऊपर कोयला आबंटन में पिछला कितना बकाया है अर्थात् यह कितना बचा हुआ है?

श्री सुशील कुमार शिन्दे: कोयले का प्रश्न है इसलिए मैं इसके बारे में नहीं बता सकूंगा। चाहे मध्य प्रदेश हो, झारखंड हो या जहां पर भी खदानें हैं वे कोयले से संबंधित हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 264. I think we have spent more than half-an-hour on one single question.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: महोदय, मैं बहुत बेसिक बात बताना चाहता हूँ।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: रामदास जी, आप बैठ जाइए।...(व्यवधान).... आप जाइए, बैठ जाइए।

Efficacy of Public Distribution System

*264. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, according to the Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India, 44 per cent of the foodgrains meant for the poor never reaches them through the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, whether Government is mulling over to change the system of distribution by giving foodgrains directly to the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In the Economic Survey 2010-11 prepared by Ministry of Finance, it has *inter-alia* been mentioned that over 40 per cent of all grain targeted at the poor missed the poor in 2001-02. This estimate is based on research conducted by Reetika Khera and others. However, in the independent study conducted by a group of research scholars and student volunteers, including Mr. Jean Dreze, Reetika Khera and others, it has been stated that there has been an impressive revival of Public Distribution System across the country during the recent years. The group have based their findings on a study made in 106 randomly-selected villages, spread over two districts each in 9 States, covering a total of 1227 BPL/Antyodaya Households. Based on the survey made, the researchers have also brought out that there have been major initiatives in the recent past to improve PDS and these efforts are showing results. It has also been pointed out the days when up to half of the PDS grain was diverted to the open market are gone.

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 Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for lifting and distributing the allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs and distribution of such allocated foodgrains to eligible card holders through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are of the State/UT Governments. Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (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 Computerisation of TPDS operations at various levels.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned here in his reply that to improve the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System the Central Government has been regularly requesting the State and Union Territory Governments for continuous review of the list of below poverty line people. My question is: Whose responsibility is it to finalise or to review the list of below poverty line people? In our country always the Central Government decides the criteria for

determining the number of below poverty line families. How will the State Government improve the system or improve the list? So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government is thinking to improve the list or to make a proper list of below poverty line people and make the system effective to enable the foodgrains to reach the really needy people of our country.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, the BPL and APL number for each of the State is decided by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Rural Development on certain norms. Now it was decided on the basis of 1992-93 estimation of poverty and population in the year 2000. This is the duty of the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Rural Development. What the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies does is, we supply to each State, to our registered godowns, the required quantity of foodgrains as decided by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Rural Development on the basis of the number of BPL and APL families.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: In the Economic Survey of 2010-11, prepared by the Ministry of Finance, it has been mentioned that over 40 per cent of all grain targeted at the poor missed the poor in 2001-02. Can the Minister tell us, why, at that time, 40 per cent of all grain targeted at the poor missed to reach the poor? At present, in 2011, what is the percentage of foodgrain missing the poor families of our country?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, the statement in the Economic Survey, 2010-11, came on the basis of a study done by Reetika Khera. Sir, the same Committee, after some years, have made further studies, and in their letter dated 21.7.2011 to the hon. Prime Minister, they have further clarified - this is the crux of their letter - "Our Survey covered more than 100 randomly selected villages spread over nine States, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. We inspected the local Fair Price Shops and interviewed more than a thousand BPL households. Oblivious of the heat or rain, we reached the country's remotest nooks and crannies and spared no effort to understand people's situation and views". This is the point. This Survey points to an impressive revival of the PDS across the country. In all the sample States, with the notable exception of Bihar, there have been major initiatives in the recent past to improve the PDS and these efforts are showing results. Most of the sample households were getting the bulk, if not the whole of their foodgrain entitlements under the PDS up to 35 kilograms per month at a nominal price. This is the report of the same Committee after some years. This is because we have taken a number of actions. A Committee has been constituted by the Planning Commission

under the Programme Evaluation. Then another Committee was constituted under ORG-MARG and another Committee was constituted by NCAR, under NCR. So all these Committees are evaluating and we are giving suggestions to the State Governments. Nine-point programmes have been given and things have improved.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while noting that the answer shows that the two successive UPA Governments had, in fact, succeeded in greatly improving the targeting of Public Distribution Systems, may I draw the hon. Minister's attention to the provision in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution for the PDS to be brought under the Panchayati Raj System?

And, I would request him to kindly consider consulting, with his colleague, the hon. Minister of Panchayati Raj, to see how we can bring these PDS outlets under the Panchayats in order to ensure that, in the last mile, there is more effective distribution than is the case at present.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I whole-heartedly welcome the suggestion given by the hon. Member. Under the new Food Security Bill, the distribution, evaluation and deciding the particular sectors, etc. are almost entrusted to the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Actually, distribution is the responsibility of the State Government, and we have suggested that the State Governments should strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions. So, running of the PDS, its evaluation and social auditing have to be done by the Panchayats.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, I would repeat the supplementary which my colleague has already raised because we have not got the answer. Sir, the Economic Survey had identified that 40 per cent of foodgrains get lost. And, now, the Minister has made a statement in this House, in his reply, that there are impressive improvements in the PDS in those areas. This, I think, should have reflected in the prices of foodgrains, but it is, unfortunately, not so. My supplementary is this. After all those impressive achievements, what is the present level of loss in the foodgrains meant for the poor through the TPDS? I want the present level, nothing more. Please do not repeat what you have already stated in your reply.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I have got the State-wise information as to what the damage is and how much siphoning off takes place, etc. It is a long list. I can pass it on to the hon. Member. But I would like to tell him that, presently, on an average, it is between 10 and 15 per cent.

प्रो. एस.पी. सिंह बघेल: धन्यवाद सभापति महोदय। माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि खाद्य वितरण प्रणाली में बहुत सुधार हो गया है और समाज के आखिरी व्यक्ति, गरीब व्यक्ति तक इनका भोजन पहुंच रहा है। मनरेगा यह कह रही है कि हम 100 दिन काम दे रहे हैं और लगभग 110 रुपए दे रहे हैं। आप 35 किलो खाद्यान्न दे रहे हैं, जिनमें दाल, चावल, चीनी, वगैरह दे रहे हैं। इसके बाद भी समाचार पत्रों और टेलीविजन के माध्यम से कई बार पता चलता है कि भोजन के अभाव में मृत्यु हो रही है।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए।

प्रो. एस.पी. सिंह बघेल: सर, मैं सवाल पूछ रहा हूँ। मनरेगा यह कह रही है कि हम काम दे रहे हैं और 100 दिन गारंटी के साथ काम दे रहे हैं। आप कह रहे हैं कि हम भोजन दे रहे हैं, 110 रुपए दे रहे हैं, इसमें 35 किलो खाद्यान्न आएगा। अगर कोई आदमी 200 ग्राम खाएगा, तो 140 बार का भोजन हो जाएगा। इसके बाद भी समाचार पत्रों से पता चलता है कि भूख के कारण मृत्यु हो रही है।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए।

प्रो. एस.पी. सिंह बघेल: मेरा सीधा सा सवाल है कि यदि यह सिद्ध हो जाए कि भोजन के अभाव में देश में किसी की मृत्यु हुई है, तो क्या मनरेगा देने वाले के खिलाफ, खाद्य वितरण प्रणाली के राशन विक्रेता के खिलाफ, एसडीएम के खिलाफ, गांव के प्रधान के खिलाफ और डीएसओ के खिलाफ आप गैर-इरादतन हत्या का मुकद्मा पंजीकृत करेंगे?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, the TPDS is run by both the Central Government and the respective State Government. The duty of the Central Government is to procure, stock and transport the foodgrains to the allocated FCI shops in the States. From the FCI shops, it is the State Governments which take the foodgrains and distribute it to the PDS shops. So, now and then, we get in touch with the State Governments. Enough instructions have been given, and many of the State Governments have improved their PDS shops. States like Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have become model States, and they are taking action whenever they find out that some quantity of foodgrains, which have been allotted to PDS shops, are being siphoned off.

विद्युत आबंटन संबंधी नीति

***265. श्री गंगा चरण:** क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में विद्युत आबंटन की नीति का ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या राज्यों को उनकी जनसंख्या के अनुरूप विद्युत का वितरण किया जाता है;