

- Scheme on computerization of TPDS on pilot basis approved to be implemented in 3 districts each of 4 pilot State i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Delhi is being implemented.
- Pilot scheme on Smart Card based delivery of TPDS commodities approved for Chandigarh UT and State of Haryana is also under implementation.
- Integrated Information System for Foodgrains Management (IISFM) aims at putting an online management system in place to give information about foodgrains management in FCI and is also being implemented.

To further ensure food security in the country, Government is proposing a National Food Security Bill to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices for people to live a life with dignity. This proposed Bill will increase the coverage of TPDS upto 75% of the rural population, with atleast 46% population belonging to priority households and upto 50% of the total urban population, with atleast 28% population belonging to priority households under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The proposed draft Bill provides that the Central Government may, from time to time, prescribe the guidelines for identification of priority households and general households, including exclusion criteria, for the purposes of their entitlement under the Act. The Bill also contains provisions for nutritional support to pregnant women & lactating mothers and children as well as entitlements for special groups such as destitute, homeless, emergency and disaster affected persons, persons living in starvations etc.

Besides the allocation and distribution of foodgrains at highly subsidized rates to the population of Below Poverty Line(BPL) and other families under Antyodaya Anna Yojana(AAY) every month, Government also provides foodgrains to Above Poverty Line (APL) category at subsidized rates depending upon their availability in the Central Pool. Government is also implementing food based other welfare schemes like Mid-day-Meal(MDM) Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Annapoorna Scheme, Village Grain Banks Scheme, etc. India has adequate buffer stocks of food grains in Central Pool for allocations under the aforesaid schemes/programmes and also has a sound public distribution system. Hence, the position of the Country shown in the Global Hunger Index is not at all justified.

#### **Allocation of foodgrains for APL families**

2040. 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 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