

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.

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 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 Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels.

Further, this Department has been regularly interacting with the States for successful and effective reforms of the TPDS. Beginning with the Conference of State Food Secretaries and other officials held in July, 2010 on 'Best Practices and Reforms in TPDS', four Regional Conferences were held with State Food Ministers and Food Secretaries in February 2011. Advisories are also being issued on regular basis to all States/UTs to take necessary corrective measures for smooth and transparent functioning of the TPDS.

Views of States on Food Security Bill

†647. SHRI RAM SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Draft of Food Security Bill was sent to the State Governments to obtain their views;

(b) if so, when this draft was sent to States and the names of States which have furnished their views in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the names of States which have expressed their consent on the draft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Draft National Food Security Bill was sent to States/UTs on 12.08.2011 and 19.08.2011 seeking their comments on draft Bill by the end of the month. The last date for receipt of comments was subsequently extended to 31.10.2011. In response, comments have been received from 18 States/UTs viz., Andman & Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal, within the stipulated time. The States/UT have furnished their comments/suggestions on various provisions of the draft Bill. Taking into account comments/suggestions received from them and other stakeholders, a revised draft Bill will be placed before the appropriate authority for its approval, before introduction in Parliament.

Modern FCI godowns on PPP mode

648. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared a master plan to construct modern FCI godowns on Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode to prevent the wastage of foodgrains to the tune of 50 metric tonnes every year;

(b) if so, whether there is any time schedule to complete the project; and

(c) if not, who would be held responsible/accountable for the loss of tax payers' money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage under Cover and Plinth (CAP).

A capacity of about 151 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 states under the scheme. Scientific methods are adopted for storage of foodgrains in FCI godowns. However some quantity of foodgrains gets damaged/non-issuable due to various reasons like floods, pests, rodents, natural calamities etc.