

(c) whether it is also a fact that these chunk of population will have to suffer from the market mechanism when they are out of PDS;

(d) if so, whether Government is considering to take any protective measure for them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (e) Under the existing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), implemented by the Government, foodgrains at subsidised prices are allocated to 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Allocation for about 11.5 crore Above Poverty Line (APL) families is also made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

On the other hand, the National Food Security Bill, 2011, introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 22, 2011, seeks to give legal entitlement to subsidised foodgrains to about two-thirds of the population and will therefore benefit a large segment of population in terms of access to foodgrains. The Bill provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population, with at least 46% population belonging to priority households and upto 50% of the urban population, with at least 28% population belonging to priority households for receiving subsidized foodgrains under TPDS. The Bill also contains provisions for nutritional support to women and children and meals to special groups such as destitutes and homeless persons, disaster affected persons and persons living in starvation to ensure food security of especially vulnerable groups.

#### **PDS in Karnataka**

3299. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that, in Karnataka, not even a single PDS shop is open throughout the month;

(b) whether it is a fact that foodgrains are issued in the last week of month, when most BPL families find it difficult to buy the ration available at the subsidized rates;

(c) whether there are many problems like, Kerosene distribution, manipulation in measurements, extra transportation charges, less quantum of ration etc.; and

(d) the details of steps being taken by the Central Government to set right the above problems of the people living below poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (c) State Government of Karnataka has intimated that most of the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are kept open throughout the month. However, there may be instances of some FPSs violating the law.

It is further reported by the State Government that foodgrains are generally issued in 2nd or 3rd week of the month. Action is taken by the State Government in cases where there is delay in distribution of foodgrains by persons authorized to run the FPS.

As per the State Government, manipulation in measurement, collection of amounts in excess of the prescribed rates, etc. have also come to their notice and in all such cases, action has been initiated against the defaulters.

(d) Strengthening and streamlining of the 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 AAY Families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at 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.

Further, this Department has been regularly interacting with the States/UTs for successful and effective reforms of the TPDS by holding Conferences, review meetings. 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.

#### **Prices of vegetables**

3300. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI :  
SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

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

(a) whether Government is aware that wholesale prices of vegetables have shown marginal increase but retailers and stockists are driving the rise in vegetable prices and common man do not have access to have vegetables;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would provide storage facilities to farmers producing vegetables at local level through FCI/Public Private Partnership as farmers are not getting appropriate prices for their produce;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?