

(c) 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 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 including the Supply Chain Management and automation at the FPS level.

Further, instructions and advisories are issued from time to time for reforms in PDS. In the Conference of State Food Secretaries and other officials on Best Practices and Reforms in TPDS held in July 2010, measures being taken by States/UTs for streamlining the TPDS were shared amongst the participants. These, *inter-alia*, related to proper identification of beneficiaries, timely distribution of foodgrains, door step delivery of foodgrains, enhancing viability of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), enhancing storage capacities, use of technology based initiatives in TPDS, increasing public awareness, monitoring distribution of PDS commodities through social audit, etc. Regional Conferences were also held in February, 2011 with State/UT Food Ministers and Food Secretaries to review the implementation of TPDS. Further, a two day Conference on Targeted Public Distribution System and Storage with Food and Agriculture Ministers and Secretaries of States/UTs was held on 8th and 9th February, 2012 at New Delhi. The issues discussed in the Conference included stepping up of procurement activities, expeditious action to be taken for computerization of PDS and creation of storage capacity as well as time bound completion of existing projects.

Sugar exports

3291. SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister of Agriculture has written a letter to the Prime Minister regarding slow pace of sugar exports;

(b) what reasons, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, are to be blamed for this slow pace of exports;

(c) whether the Ministry's views are concurrent with those of Department of Food and Public Distribution and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the notional loss due to such slow pace of sugar exports and whether EGoM's decision taken in its meeting of 26 March, 2012 would help in reducing such losses; and

(e) the production of sugar and corresponding exports in the current and last two Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) The Minister of Agriculture had written to the Prime Minister for a common approach by all concerned Ministries and Departments on the issue of trade policy of agricultural products.

(c) Decision on export of sugar is taken after inter-ministerial consultations.

(d) Export of sugar depends on a number of factors like international prices, exchange rate, infrastructure facilities at ports etc. The Central Government does not maintain the data of notional gain/loss of sugar export.

(e) Sugar production during the current sugar season is estimated at about 251.97 lac tons. The export release orders up to 2nd May, 2012 under two tranches of exports of 10 lac tons each have been issued for 19.606 lakh tonnes.

Sugar production and quantity exported during last two Plans is as under :

Sugar Seasons	Production in Lac MTs	Quantity exported in Lac MTs*
2000-01	185.10	9.87
2001-02	184.98	10.94
2002-03	201.32	15.00
2003-04	139.58	4.05
2004-05	136.60	0.69
2005-06	193.21	15.04
2006-07	281.99	24.90
2007-08	262.98	58.23
2008-09	146.77	2.17
2009-10	188.02	2.37
2010-11 (Prov.)	243.49	28.14

*Source : Directorate of Sugar and DGCIS, Kolkata

Global price rice due to NFSB

3292. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the proposed National Food Security Bill (NFSB);

(b) whether experts have raised concern that the proposed Bill will lead to a spiral in the global prices and significant increase in food subsidy;