

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that they have sent a communication to the Prime Minister in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Some eminent personalities in their comments on draft National Food Security Bill inter alia suggested universal Public Distribution System (PDS) with well defined exclusion criteria. Some also suggested provision of drinking water and sanitation facilities; and maternity benefits to pregnant women and lactating mothers.

(c) and (d) A group of research scholars, including Shri Jean Dreze, University of Allahabad, in a letter dated 21.07.2011 to the Prime Minister, has supported the case for a 'near universal PDS', whereby all households are entitled to food subsidies unless they meet well-defined exclusion criteria. They have also suggested that the National Food Security Act should include strongest possible safeguards against a hasty transition from food entitlements to cash transfers.

The National Food Security Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011, and thereafter referred to the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for examination. Further action on the Bill can be taken only after the report of the Committee is received.

Misleading advertisements

4064. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has constituted an inter ministerial group to look into the issue of misleading advertisements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to bring a law to prevent misleading advertisements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, the Department of Consumer Affairs is holding several workshops and

seminars in different parts of the country to find ways and means to tackle the Misleading Advertisements.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Schemes for providing food

†4065. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Government's scheme for providing food items like wheat, rice, oil, etc. to the BPL families in the country at cheaper rates;
- (b) the States where this scheme has been implemented and whether the State Governments are being able to implement this scheme successfully;
- (c) whether any complaints regarding gross irregularities in the implementation of this scheme in some States are being received; and
- (d) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The commodity-wise details are as under:

Foodgrains:

Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), implemented in all the States/Union Territories (UTs), allocation of foodgrains is being made for all accepted number of 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families indentified by the States/UTs in the country @ 35 kgs. per family per month. Government of India supplies the foodgrains to all the States/Union Territories (UTs) for the BPL and AAY families at highly subsidized prices since 01.04.2002, as is indicated below:

Central Issue Price (CIP)

[in Rs. per kg)		
Commodity	AAY	BPL
Wheat	2.00	4.15
Rice	3.00	5.65

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.