

Year		BPL	AAY	APL	Total
2011-12	Rice	116.19	68.92	76.16	261.27
	Wheat	58.20	33.46	135.83	227.49
	Total	174.39	102.38	211.99	488.76
2012-13	Rice	116.37	68.74	79.13	264.24
	Wheat	58.24	33.42	143.60	235.26
TOTAL		174.61	102.16	222.73	499.50

To meet the requirement of foodgrains under TPDS and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) as well as for buffer stocks, foodgrains are procured at notified Minimum Support Prices (MSPs). The procurement of foodgrains is an open ended process and all the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale by farmers at specified procurement centres are purchased by the procurement agencies. The funds for procurement are arranged by the procuring agencies by taking cash credit facilities from banks or from other sources. The Government provides subsidy to meet the difference between the cost of foodgrains and Central Issue Prices for the quantity of foodgrains distributed as well as for buffer subsidy. The Food subsidy released during the last 3 years and subsidy allocated for 2012-13 is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount
2009-10	58242.45
2010-11	62929.56
2011-12	72370.90
2012-13	74551.99

Use of unclaimed money for consumer awareness

4830. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumer protection movement in the country is lagging behind due to paucity of funds to energise awareness among the consumers upto village level;

(b) whether Government is aware that money in terms of crores are lying unclaimed with the nationalised banks for the last 10 years; and

(c) if so, what is preventing Government to utilise the unclaimed amount for the consumers' fund after necessary amendment in the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir. The consumer protection movement is active and vibrant in the country. Paucity of funds has never been a problem. In fact during the Eleventh plan period a total of Rs. 409 crore was earmarked for consumer awareness scheme. This scheme has given thrust to multimedia campaign on making consumers aware of their rights. The slogan 'Jago Grahak Jago' has now become a household name as a result of awareness campaign undertaken by the Government.

(b) Yes Sir. As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report, as on 31st December, 2010, a total amount of around Rs. 1723.24 crore is lying as unclaimed deposits with the Schedule Commercial Banks (SCBs).

(c) Reserve Bank of India has already issued guidelines to Banks for the utilization of unclaimed amount.

Grain procuring infrastructure

4831. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the State Governments to set up grain procuring infrastructure to increase procurement of foodgrains from the farmers, so that the requirement for the proposed National Food Security Bill could be met;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State level procuring agencies can help in arranging sufficient credit facilities for carrying out grain purchase activities without depending on the Central Government; 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) Yes Sir. To increase procurement of foodgrains, State Governments have been requested to set up grain procuring infrastructure along with steps like adoption of Decentralized