THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The National Food Security Bill, 2011 (NFSB) has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2011 with the objective to provide food and nutritional security, in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The proposed legislation 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 Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Priority households will be entitled to receive 7 kg. of foodgrains per person per month at prices not exceeding Rs. 3, 2, 1 per kg. for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively. General households will be entitled to receive not less than 3 kg. of foodgrains at prices not exceeding 50% of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat and coarse grains and not exceeding 50% of derived MSP for rice.

The Bill will also confer legal rights on women and children and other Special Groups such as destitute, homeless, disaster and emergency affected persons and persons living in starvation, to receive meal free of charge or at affordable price, as the case may be.

(c) and (d) The prices at which foodgrains will be made available to the entitled beneficiaries under the Bill are highly subsidized and at present there is no shortage of foodgrains in the system nor have the Government received any such reports from the rural areas of the country in this regard. Also, at the current levels of production and procurement of foodgrains, any shortfall in availability of foodgrains is not foreseen, so far as meeting the estimated requirement of foodgrains under the NFSB is concerned.

Expenditure for implementation of NFSB

†4855. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government would have to spend one lakh twelve thousand crore rupees as subsidy on implementation of National Food Security Bill (NFSB) in the country;

(b) if so, details in this regard;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) whether it is also a fact that about 70 per cent of this country's total population would get benefit from the implementation of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and by when Government has decided to implement it in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per provisions of the National Food Security Bill, 2011 (NFSB), introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2011, the food subsidy requirement for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) prescribed in the Bill, is estimated at Rs. 1,12,205 crore for the complete year 2012-13. The estimated requirement is based on available information and subject to changes in variables such as coverage, economic cost of foodgrains and issue prices.

(c) and (d) 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 will also confer legal rights on women and children and other Special Groups such as destitute, homeless, disaster and emergency affected persons and persons living in starvation, to receive meal free of charge or at affordable price, as the case may be.

After introduction, the Bill has been referred to the Parliamentary 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.

Shortage of storage facility

4856. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of storage facilities for foodgrains, in view of bumper crops particularly in Punjab, Haryana, UP and MP;

(b) if so, the details of storage facilities *vis-a-vis* the estimated production of foodgrains;

(c) whether FCI has gone on record saying that a large quantum of foodgrains cannot be stored, in view of lack of storage capacity; and

(d) what strategy has been devised to prevent these excess foodgrains from damage?