

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The details of funds earmarked for the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) under the Plan Scheme namely Village Grains Bank Scheme and break-up of actual expenditure during the last three years is as given below:

Year	Funds earmarked for TSP (Rs. in crore)	Actual Expenditure incurred under TSP (Rs. in crore)	Number of VGBs sanctioned
2009-10	2.43	2.38	296
2010-11	2.38	1.70	214
2011-12	1.40	1.96	238
TOTAL	6.21	6.04	748

No funds have been earmarked for the Scheduled Caste Special Plan (SCSP) by the Ministry during the last three years.

(c) The Scheme envisaged benefiting 11,840 families during 2009-10, 8,560 families during 2010-11 and 9,520 families during 2011-12. The detail of the actual number of beneficiaries is not maintained by the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

National Food Security Act

4854. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

(a) whether National Food Security Act is going to be launched in the country with the objective of proper management of food economy to check scarcity, ensure supply of foodgrains at affordable price and maintain price stability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the shortage of foodgrains and instability in its prices may continue to be reported from rural parts of the country despite the operation of the system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

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