

percentage points in the rural sector and about 3.5 percentage points in the urban. The share of oils and fats has risen by 3 percentage points in both the sectors. The share of milk and milk products has grown by about 1.4 percentage points in the urban sector and 0.6 percentage points in the rural.

The Government has been taking several measures to strengthen the nutritional levels of the most vulnerable sections of the population, particularly, pregnant and lactating mothers and children upto the age of six years through the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under ICDS, children in the primary and upper primary levels through the Midday Meal scheme, nutritional empowerment programme of girl children in the age group of 11-18 years through the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (Sabla). Under Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY), introduced in 2010-11 on trial basis in 52 districts from all States/UTs, cash incentives are provided to pregnant and lactating mothers for improving their health and nutritional status. Under Annapurna scheme implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, indigent senior citizens are provided 10kg. of food grains per month, free of cost. Under the Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) which is a food-based intervention implemented in the KBK districts of Odisha, targetted at old, infirm and destitute persons belonging to BPL households to provide them food security, cooked food is provided to EFP beneficiaries by the State Government. The allocation of food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families have also been increased through adhoc additional allocations during the last two years.

The National Nutrition Policy 1993 and the National Plan of Action on Nutrition 1995 advocates a comprehensive inter- sectoral strategy, which directly or indirectly affect dietary intake and nutritional status of the population, for combating the multifaceted problem of under nutrition and improving nutritional status for all sections of the society. The Government has been taking several measures to streamline the Public Distribution System. These include the 9 Point Action Plan, action against possession of bogus ration cards, increased transparency in the functioning of TPDS, use of ICT tools such as computerization of TPDS operations, etc.

#### **Allocation of foodgrains to Assam**

4846. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 300 hectares of crop land has been inundated and standing crops were damaged during the last year in Assam;

(b) whether any requests for enhanced allocation of foodgrains to meet the shortage caused by drought has been made by the State Government; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken or are being taken to ensure adequate food supplies to all areas in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No such report has been received.

(b) and (c) During last year (2011-12) request was received from Assam Government for allocation of 20,000 tons of rice for flood relief as well as to meet additional food grain requirements of the State. Considering these requests of the State Government and availability of stocks in the Central Pool, Government has made following additional allocations of foodgrains to Assam during 2011-12:

- (i) Additional allocation of 2.21 lakh tons of rice and wheat made on 16.5.2011 and 18.1.2012 at BPL issue prices for distribution to BPL families.
- (ii) Additional allocation of 1.50 lakh tons of rice made on 20.6.2011 and 8.8.2011 at BPL issue price for distribution to BPL families.
- (iii) Additional allocation of 2.25 lakh tons of rice and wheat made on 20.6.2011 and 9.12.2011 at special rate of Rs. 8.45 per kg for wheat and Rs. 11.85 per kg for rice for APL families.
- (iv) 15,340 tons of rice on 10.10.2011 at BPL issue price for distribution to additional BPL families in 5 poorest and backward districts in the State.

Thus, Government has made substantial additional allocation of food grains to Assam to meet their requirements.

#### **Consumer Court**

†4847. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of consumer courts in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases filed in those courts, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of Government's action plan formulated for the protection of consumers?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi