

are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Number of persons arrested/ prosecuted/convicted.
1	2009	5149
2	2010	7441
3	2011	1885

Families benefited under PDS

2664. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families being benefited from Public Distribution System (PDS), at present in Assam;

(b) whether the various items are available in sufficient quantity for distribution; and

(c) if not, the details of specific steps being taken to make the distribution system strong in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Further, as per these estimates, the accepted number of BPL families in State of Assam are 18.36 lakh, including 7.040 lakh AAY families. Allocation of foodgrains to these accepted number of BPL/AAY families, including the BPL/AAY families in the State of Assam, are being made @ 35 kg. per family per month.

Allocation of foodgrains are also made to Above Poverty Line (APL) families based on the availability of foodgrains in the central pool and past offtake. Presently, the allocation of foodgrains to APL families to States/UTs ranges between 15 kg. and 35 kg. per family per month. In respect of State of Assam, full allocation of foodgrains is being made @ 35 kg per family per month for the 26.57 lakh APL families in Assam.

The stock of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool (as on 1.04.2012) is 533.02 lakh tons comprising 333.50 lakh tons of rice and 199.52 lakh tons of wheat,

which is sufficient to meet the requirement of foodgrains as per existing level of allocations under TPDS.

Keeping in view the surplus stock of foodgrains in Central Pool, the Government has also made adhoc additional allocation of foodgrains, in addition to normal TPDS allocation, to States/UTs, including Assam, from time to time to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains to the targeted beneficiaries. The details of adhoc additional allocations made to the State of Assam during 2011 and 2012 are as under:

(in thousand tons)

BPL	Allocation made on 7.9.2010 and 6.1.2011	290.794
	Allocation made on 16.5.2011	220.794
APL	Allocation made on 6.1.2011	282.673
	Allocation made on 30.6.2011	400.500
	Allocation made on 12.3.2012	480.600

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of BPL and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels.

Quantum of future trade

†2665. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of future trade, in monetary term, taken place in the country during each year of the last three years;

(b) whether Government has initiated any study to ascertain the benefit accrued to farmers especially small and marginal farmers and other stakeholders from future trading and has recommended measures to make improvements therein;

(c) if so, the details of outcome of the said study;

(d) whether the report of the said study has been received; and

(e) if so, the details and outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.