

Entitlements under National Food Security Act

2655. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per National Food Security Act, Government would give 35 kg. of grains per month at Rs. 3/- per kg. to every family of the country;

(b) if so, whether it will not benefit the grain traders, shopkeepers and corrupt officials; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The National Food Security Bill, 2011, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011, 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.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Bill seeks to give legal entitlement to subsidised foodgrains to about two-thirds of the population and will therefore benefit a large segment of population in terms of access to foodgrains. The Bill contains elaborate provisions for grievance redressal, transparency and accountability, to ensure that prescribed benefits reach the intended target groups.

Mismanagement of Buffer Stocks

2656. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mismanagement and carelessness in maintaining the wheat and rice buffer stocks are causing price rise;

(b) whether Government is aware that several lakh tonnes of wheat is rotting in FCI godowns being kept in the open;

(c) the reasons why Government is allowing wheat and rice rotting when people are dying of hunger in the country;

(d) whether Government has taken any steps to save foodgrains from rotting;