

To further strengthen the commitment of the Government towards food and nutrition security in the country, Government has introduced the National Food Security Bill, 2011 (NFSB) in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011. The proposed legislation marks a paradigm shift in addressing the problem of food security—from the current welfare approach to a rights based approach. It seeks to address the issue of food security in a holistic manner, by adopting a life cycle approach. About two thirds of the population will be entitled to receive 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. Pregnant and lactating women will also be entitled to receive maternity benefit of Rs. 1000 per month for six months.

#### **Delay in release of PDS quota**

2658. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any complaints regarding delay in release of PDS quota to the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such complaints received during each of the last three years, Statewise; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), allocation of foodgrains are made to States/UTs well in advance at the beginning of the year (in month of February/ March). States are allowed to lift foodgrains six months in advance and upto 20th of the allocation month.

However, there have been some problems in release of foodgrain by Food Corporation of India (FCI), particularly in North Eastern States, due to bandhs, natural calamities, short supply of rakes by railways, etc. Letters are also received reporting non-availability of adequate stocks with FCI and requesting for extension of validity period for lifting of TPDS quota. Such requests are considered as and when received.

#### **Leakage and diversion in PDS**

2659. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified points of leakage and diversion in PDS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the number of such cases reported and the estimated loss suffered during the last three years;