

pulses, by and large the maximum variation between wholesale and retail prices appears to be less than 20% barring a few outliers where it is higher than 20%. In the case of edible oils it is noticed that the maximum variations are, mainly, even less than 20% as in the case of soya oil, vanaspati, sunflower oil, palm oil etc. barring a few centres. In respect of vegetables, potato, onion and tomato for which prices are reported on a daily basis, the maximum variation is by and large of a much higher order going up to the extent of about 75 per cent, barring some outliers.

The price variation between wholesale and retail prices are on account of different layers in the distribution channels, lack of market integration, transport and handling cost, wholesalers and retailers margin, packing expenses and various taxes levied by different State Governments. In view of these, the extent of gap between retail and wholesale prices tend to vary between different commodities.

(d) Retail trade is a subject matter of the State Governments. No data is centrally maintained on retail trade.

Revision of guidelines for distribution of foodgrains

2357. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the present Food Security Bill and perceived that it is not sufficient to meet the imbalance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is planning to revise the guidelines in regard to distribution of foodgrains upto 35 kg. Per month to a family irrespective of above/below poverty line families; and

(d) the measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Government has introduced the National Food Security Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011. After introduction, the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for examination, which is examining the same.

(c) and (d) Presently, Government allocates foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to States/Union Territories (UTs) @ 35 kg per family per month for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line families, including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana families. Allocations of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line families are made depending upon availability of foodgrain stocks in the Central Pool and past offtake by the States/UTs. Presently, these allocations range between 15 and 35 kg per family per month in different States/UTs.

There is no proposal under consideration to revise the norms for allocation of foodgrains under TPDS. However, the National Food Security Bill, 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 TPDS. Priority households will be entitled to receive 7 kg of foodgrains per person per month and General households will be entitled to receive not less than 3 kg of foodgrains per person per month.

Disappearance of wheat and rice at Allahabad

†2358. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of disappearing of 13,000 metric tonnes of rice and 37 metric tonnes of wheat from the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) at Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh which was meant to be distributed among the poor;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government would conduct surprise checking of other godowns of FCI so that actual position of those godowns may also be known; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) During the year 2011-12, shortage of 69.60 tonnes of Wheat and 1388 tonnes of Rice has been detected at FCI, FSD Naini, Allahabad.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.