

of the food items move in tandem. Not much difference has been observed between the rate of increase in Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Retail Price Index (RPI) for major food items except edible oils where in some cases the increase in the Retail Price Index (RPI) has nearly been double the increase in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

The difference between wholesale and retail prices are basically on account of different layers in the distribution channels, lack of market integration, lack of adequate transport facilities, etc. which also tend to vary between different commodities.

(c) and (d) All-out efforts are made to enhance availability of essential commodities through a combination of administrative and fiscal measures.

#### **Allocation of additional foodgrains**

2365. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has allocated additional foodgrains to BPL families and bulk consumers, such as flour millers and biscuit makers due to shortage of storage spaces;

(b) if so, the details of quantity allocated to each of these categories and at what price; and

(c) the extra burden Government would have to bear for extra allocation to BPL families and bulk consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Considering the surplus stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool and requests received from States/UTs for higher/additional allocation, Government has made an adhoc additional allocation of 50 lakh tons of foodgrains to all the States/UTs in July, 2012 for distribution to the additional BPL families at BPL prices upto March, 2013. The estimated gross subsidy on account of the above additional allocation is Rs. 8411.248 crore. Further, in pursuance of the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court and as per the recommendations of the Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) D.P. Wadhwa, Government has made additional allocation of 17.66 lakh tons of foodgrains during the current year for the additional Below Poverty Line (BPL) and

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the poorest districts in States at BPL and AAY prices. The estimated additional subsidy on the above allocation is Rs. 3042.244 crore.

Under Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic), Government has also approved additional allocation of 30 lakh tons of wheat for tender sale to bulk consumers for the period July, 2012 to March, 2013 with an estimated subsidy component of Rs. 1956 crore. In addition, balance quantity from the wheat allocation of 15 lakh tons made for the period October, 2011 to September, 2012 has also been allowed to be sold to bulk consumers through tenders. Out of this, 26.02 lakh tons of wheat has been offered for sale in different States, so far.

#### **Computerisation of PDS**

2366. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made progress with respect to computerization of the Public Distribution System at the national level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government envisages incorporation of the Aadhaar scheme as a part of such computerisation and if so, how and to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) All States/ Union Territories (UTs) have been requested to undertake end-to-end Computerization of Public Distribution System (PDS). End-to-end Computerization of PDS includes Digitization of Ration Cards and Creation of Beneficiary Database, Computerization of Supply-Chain Management, Fair Price Shop (FPS) Automation, Setting up of Transparency Portal, *etc.* As per reports received from time to time, details of State-wise progress with respect to key aspects of computerization of PDS are given in Statement (*See* below).

- (c) Under the guidelines issued by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, States/UTs are encouraged to include PDS related fields in the data collection exercise being undertaken by various UIDAI appointed Registrars as part of the UID (Aadhaar) enrolment. As per these guidelines, as far as possible, State/ UT Governments should also link the process of electronic authentication of delivery and payments at the FPS level with Aadhaar registration. This would help in streamlining the process of biometric collection as well as authentication of beneficiary at the time of commodity issuance at FPS.