

of coal assets in Limpopo Province of South Africa. CIL Board has accorded approval for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary of CIL in South Africa and process has been initiated for registration of the same.

Foodgrains to BPL beneficiaries

*302. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps the Ministry has taken since 2005, when the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission submitted its report stating that only 42 per cent of foodgrains are reaching the BPL beneficiaries through Public Distribution System (PDS) improve the situation;

(b) the percentage of foodgrains now reaching BPL families through PDS;

(c) whether any survey or study has been carried out recently either by the Ministry or by the Planning Commission in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) The evaluation study report on Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) prepared by Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO), Planning Commission (2005) *inter-alia* stated that about 42% of subsidized grains issued from the Central Pool reached the target group. As the evaluation report indicated high levels of diversion/ leakages of foodgrains under TPDS, exclusion and inclusion errors in identification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, *etc.*, a Nine-point Action Plan was evolved in July, 2006.

Other evaluation studies on functioning of TPDS have also been got conducted by the Department from time to time. The last study was undertaken through Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) (2007-11) in 14 States/UTs, for which survey was conducted by IIPA during 2007-08. Details of leakages/ diversion, of foodgrains mentioned in the report are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. Government has regularly reviewed and has issued instructions to States/UTs to strengthen functioning of TPDS by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations. Details of the action taken by States/UTs under the Nine Point Action Plan as reported upto 30.06.2012 are given in Statement-II (See below).

In an independent study conducted recently by a group of research scholars and student volunteers, including Mr. Jean Dreze, Reetika Khera and others (2011), it has been stated that there has been an impressive revival of PDS across the country during the recent years. The group have based their findings on a study made in 106 randomly-selected villages, spread over two districts each in 9 States. Based on the survey made in May-June 2011, the researchers have brought out that there have been major initiatives in the recent past to improve PDS and these efforts are showing results. It has been also mentioned that the days when up to half of the PDS grain was diverted to the open market are gone. The study further points out that the average purchase of PDS grain by beneficiaries as a proportion of their full quota in the 9 States stood at 84%.

Statement-I

Consolidated figures of leakages of foodgrains (rice and wheat) indicated in IIPA (Phase-I) Report in respect of six States, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Tripura and West Bengal

Sl.No.	State	Leakage as Percentage of offtake
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	14.88
2.	Manipur	27.00
3.	Nagaland	49.49
4.	Orissa	6.86
5.	Tripura	3.24
6.	West Bengal	26.84

Consolidated figures of diversion/leakages of foodgrains (rice and wheat) allocated under TPDS as indicated in IIPA (Phase-II) Report in respect of States/UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Chandigarh

Sl.No.	State/UT	Percentage of diversion/leakage of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) allocated under TPDS to AAY and BPL beneficiaries
1.	Haryana	8.69
2.	Punjab	Nil *
3.	Chandigarh	13.6
4.	Tamil Nadu	13.64
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil *
6.	Himachal Pradesh	5.6
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.1
8.	Karnataka	Nil *

* Nil percentage of diversion/leakage does not take into account diversion from one category to another category of beneficiaries (AAY/BPL/APL).

Statement-II

Details of the action taken by States/UTs as reported upto 30.06.2012 under the Nine point Action Plan

1	States should undertake a campaign to review BPL/AAY list to eliminate ghost ration cards.	Implementation of the action plan has resulted in elimination of a total of 266.80 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards in 27 States/UTs.
2	Strict action should be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains.	33 States/UTs have reported that action is being taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of food-grains.

3	For sake of transparency, involvement of elected Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members in distribution of foodgrains be ensured. FPS licenses be given to Self Help Groups (SHGs), gram panchayats, cooperatives etc.	There is involvement of PRIs in Vigilance Committees to monitor FPS in 29 States/UTs. 31 States/UTs have reported FPS being run by Gram Panchayats, SHGs, Cooperatives etc. Out of more than 5.09 lakh FPS in operation, over 1.31 lakh FPS are being run by such organisations.
4	Display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops.	BPL lists at FPS are displayed in 31 States/UTs.
5	Display of fair price shop-wise and district-wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.	Action regarding putting up district-wise and FPS-wise allocation of foodgrains on websites and other prominent places has been initiated in 21 States/UTs.
6	Door-step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops.	Door-step delivery of foodgrains to FPS by State Governments instead of letting private transporters to transport goods is being done in 18 States/UTs. This reduces leakages during the transportation of foodgrains and ensures viability of FPS owners. Matter is being pursued with other States for implementing door-step delivery.
7	Ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at FPS and distribution of foodgrains by FPS.	Action is being taken by 32 States in this regard.
8	Training of Vigilance Committee members.	27 State/UT Govts. have taken up training programmes for FPS level Vigilance Committees. Funds are also being provided by Government of India under a Plan Scheme for training of TPDS officers/officials.

9	Computerization of TPDS operations, use of IT etc.	End-to-end computerisation including Supply chain computerisation, FPS automation, digitisation of ration card database, creation of transparency portal etc. has been taken up. States/UTs have prepared their action plans regarding computerisation. Detailed guidelines and timelines for achieving specific milestones have been sent to States/UTs.
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Export of wheat at subsidized rate

*303. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the panel headed by the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) has recommended exporting 8 million tonnes (MT) of wheat at a subsidy of Rs.1,500 crore through Government channels and another 1 MT through private traders;

(b) whether the panel has also recommended the distribution of 8 MT of foodgrains to BPL and APL families; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and how Government proposes to ensure that the subsidized foodgrains reach poor families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) A Committee headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister had submitted a report recommending certain measures for effective management of surplus foodgrain stocks in the Central Pool. The report *inter-alia* had suggested export of 2 million tons of wheat from Central Pool Stock of FCI, entailing a subsidy of Rs.1,500 crores. Accordingly, the Government had approved the export of 2 million tons of wheat from Central Pool stocks of Food Corporation of India (FCI) through Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) of Department of Commerce *viz.* State Trading Corporation (STC), Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) and Project and Equipments Corporation (PEC) at the cost determined by individual tenders subject to the floor price of US\$ 228 per metric ton. These exports are to be completed by March 31, 2013. The Committee also recommended exports of 1 million tons of wheat by private agencies.