

families during each of the last two years *i.e.* 2010-11 and 2011-12. During the current year 2012-13 also, 50 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated to the States/UTs for distribution to the additional BPL families at BPL prices upto March, 2013.

(c) and (d) Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 14th May, 2011 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196 of 2001-PUCL Vs. Union of India and Others on Right to Food, had directed to reserve 5 million tons of foodgrains for distribution to the 150 poorest districts or the extremely poor or vulnerable sections of our society and requested Wadhwa Committee to identify the poorest districts or the poorest segments of the society. On the basis of the list of 150 most backward districts identified for implementation of National Food for Work Programme and another list of 147 backward districts identified for the implementation of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana provided by the Planning Commission, the Wadhwa Committee identified the poorest districts by combining both the lists (except 32 extremist affected districts in the list of 147 most backward districts), and added a few more districts as poorest, wherever pointed out by the concerned State Governments.

Families benefited under PDS in Maharashtra

367. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families being benefited under the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Maharashtra;

(b) whether there is sufficient quantity available with the State Government for distribution;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government is taking for providing sufficient foodgrains through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less.

As per these estimates, the total number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Further, as per these estimates, the accepted number of BPL families in Maharashtra is 65.34 lakh, including 25.05 lakh AAY families. Allocation of foodgrains to these accepted number of BPL/AAY families are made @ 35 kg per family per month. Allocation of foodgrains is also being made to 111.93 lakh Above Poverty Line (APL) families in the State @ 15 kg. per family per month.

Government of Maharashtra has *inter-alia* reported that while there is sufficient quantity of foodgrains available for BPL and AAY families, it is about 84% of the requirement of APL families. To augment availability of foodgrains at cheaper rates in the State, Government has been making adhoc additional allocations for BPL and APL families from time-to-time over and above normal TPDS allocation.

Allocation of foodgrains under PDS

†368. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has discontinued the allocation of foodgrains under PDS to 11 States including Jharkhand and Bihar;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the States which have stored foodgrains more than this quota; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including additional allocations are being made to all the States/Union Territories (UTs).

(c) and (d) State-wise position of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.8.2012 is given in Statement [Refer to the Statement the Answer is USQ No.348 (part 19)].

Supply side constraints vis-a-vis inflation

369. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some studies reveal that supply side constraints are the major contributors to the inflationary pressure on commodities;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi