

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;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

- (b) whether Government has done any survey or research to understand the reason behind the price rise;
- (c) the measures taken to strengthen the supply side constraints; and
- (d) the steps Government has taken to make fast food manufacturers of the country to label their products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The supply side constraints are one of the reasons for increase in the prices of essential commodities resulting in inflationary pressures. Though no formal survey has been undertaken, reasons for price rise are monitored and analysed on a regular basis.

(c) and (d) Supply side constraints are being addressed through schemes/programmes for increasing production of various items and their availability, developing market infrastructure and enhancing storage and warehousing facilities. These measures are expected to help in further containing inflation.

The steps taken by the Government to make fast-food manufacturers of the country to label their products are given in Statement

***Statement***

*Steps taken by Government to make fast food manufacturers of the country to label their products*

To make it mandatory for the fast food manufacturers of the country to label their products, Government has made provisions under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 framed under Legal Metrology Act, 2009. Under rule 6 of the said rules it is mandatory to declare on all pre-packed commodities including pre-packed fast food, manufactured for retail sale, name and address of the manufacturer/packer/importer, name of Commodity, net quantity, month and year of manufacturing/packing/importing, retail sale price and the name, address, telephone number, e- Mail address, if available, of the person who can be or the office which can be, contacted, in case of consumer complaints, to protect the interest of consumers.

The penalty provisions are also made under section 36(1) of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 for the violations in respect of the mandatory declarations on the label. Penalty for the first offence with fine which may be to twenty five thousand rupees, for the second offence with fine which may be extended to fifty

thousand rupees and for the subsequent offence with fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees but which may extend to one lakh rupees or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with both.

The enforcement of the provisions of the Act and Rules is done by the Legal Metrology Department of States/UTs.

#### **Inflation due to future market**

370. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that future market is one of the reasons behind food inflation in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether Government is contemplating any action regarding future market; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) According to available information there is no clear evidence that rise in food prices in India has been due to forward trading. An Expert Committee chaired by Shri Abhijit Sen, Member of the Planning Commission that analyzed annual trend growth rate in prices of sensitive commodities (food grains and sugar) in pre-futures and post futures period, concluded that although inflation clearly increased post-futures in some sensitive commodities that have higher weight in consumer price indices, it is not possible to make any general claim that inflation accelerated more in commodities with futures trading.

Other factors particularly demand supply mismatches, degree of dependence on imports and international prices in these commodities etc. also tend to affect commodity prices.

(c) and (d) The Forward Markets Commission, the regulator of commodity futures closely monitors the price movements/volatilities in the commodities traded on the commodity futures exchanges, and initiates suitable action as and when required.