

it has *inter-alia* been mentioned that over 40 percent of all grain targeted at the poor missed the poor in 2001-02. This estimate is based on research conducted by Reetika Khera and others. However, in the independent study conducted by a group of research scholars and student volunteers, including Mr. Jean Dreze, Reetika Khera and others (May-June 2011), it has been stated that there has been an impressive revival of Public Distribution System 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, covering a total of 1227 BPL/Antyodaya Households. Based on the survey made, the researchers have also brought out that there have been major initiatives in the recent past to improve PDS and these efforts are showing results. It has also been pointed out that the days when up to half of the PDS grain was diverted to the open market are gone.

(e) and (f) In consultation with the State/UT Governments, a Nine-Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which *inter-alia* includes continuous review of BPL/AAY lists and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards alongwith strict action to be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. Instructions were issued to all State/UT Governments to carry out an intensive campaign from October 2009 to December, 2009 to review the existing lists of BPL/AAY families and eliminate ineligible bogus ration cards. Instructions have also been issued to all State/UT Governments to issue warning to the bogus card holders, through advertisements in the newspapers, to surrender the bogus cards. As a result of these measures, State/UTs have reported deletion of 266.80 lakh bogus/ineligible cards upto 30.6.2012.

Abolition of levy rice

†365. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is going to abolish the procurement of levy rice in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh this year and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to this decision the farmers would be forced to sell their paddy at Rs. 600 per quintal and if so, the arrangement made by Government to ensure that the farmers may get the declared price of paddy; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No such decision has been taken so far by the Ministry.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above does not arise.

Additional allocation of foodgrains

366. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is considering to make additional allocation of foodgrains for the poorest districts of the country with a view to provide relief to the poor from rising prices and also to liquidate the surplus stocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto indicating the quantum of foodgrains allocated and distributed under the said dispensation;

(c) whether the districts covered under the other food based welfare schemes are proposed to be covered under the same; 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) Government of India has been making additional allocation of foodgrains for the additional Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the poorest districts of the country 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. Accordingly, during 2011-12, the Government allocated 23.69 lakh tons of foodgrains for the additional BPL and AAY families in the poorest and backward districts identified by Wadhwa Committee in 27 States. This included 1473 tons of foodgrains allocated to 4 States at AAY prices for running Community Kitchen to provide cooked food under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme. During the current year 2012-13 also, on the recommendations of the Committee, the Government has so far allocated 15.80 lakh tons of foodgrains for additional AAY and BPL families in the poorest districts.

Considering the availability of surplus stocks in the Central Pool and to augment supply of foodgrains to check open market prices, Government has allocated 50 lakh tons of foodgrains to all States/Union Territories (UTs) for BPL