

**Amendment in Metrology Rules**

349. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has amended the Legal Metrology (packaged commodities) Rules, recently deleting the proviso that permitted non-standardized packaging of some commodities; and

(b) if so, the impact of measure on the consumers and the manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes Sir, the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 were amended vide GSR 784(E) dated 24th October, 2011 and vide GSR 426(E) dated 5th June, 2012 by which the provision of rule 5 has been omitted which EARLIER permitted the manufacturers to pack some commodities in non-standard sizes.

(b) This amendment will have a positive impact in market in so far as consumers will get products only in standard size so that they can easily compare the prices and decide. The manufacturers will also benefit from perfect competition in market.

**Procurement of rice from mill owners**

350. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:  
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

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

(a) what action has been taken by Food Corporation of India on the incident that in Puducherry FCI is procuring paddy from rice mill owners directly instead of procuring from farmers due to which farmers are suffering heavy financial loss; and

(b) by when the Ministry is going to address the concern of farming community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) There is no such report of FCI directly procuring paddy from mills in Puducherry. Puducherry is a Decentralised Procurement (DCP) State and the responsibility of procuring paddy from farmers is that of the Puducherry Government. Food Corporation of India (FCI) supplements the effort of Puducherry Government by setting up of procurement

centres for purchasing paddy from farmers. FCI accepts only levy rice from the millers as the Puducherry government has imposed 50 % levy on the rice millers starting from Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2009-10.

**Poor distribution and hoarding of foodgrains**

351. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor distribution and hoarding of foodgrains is primarily responsible for pushing up food prices in the country;

(b) if so, the details of procurement and distribution thereof, item-wise and Statewise during the last three years, till date; and

(c) what remedial steps Government has taken, so far, to improve the situation, as common man is suffering a lot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Government allocates foodgrains to States/Union Territories (UTs) for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg per family per month. Allocation of foodgrains to Above Poverty Line (APL) families are also made depending upon the availability of foodgrains in the central pool and the past offtake. Presently, APL allocations range between 15 Kg and 35 Kg per family per month in different States/UTs. To augment availability of foodgrains at cheaper rates in the States/UTs, Government has been making adhoc additional allocation for BPL and APL families from time to time over and above normal TPDS allocation.

State Governments have a major role in checking prices of essential commodities by curbing malpractices, profiteering and hoarding through a set of administrative and regulatory measures. This Ministry has advised States/UTs to curb malpractices, to check prices of essential commodities, put in place and strengthen an appropriate mechanism for regular and intensive monitoring of prices to detect short term fluctuations and take prompt corrective action to maintain adequate supplies at affordable prices for consumers through direct market intervention.

(b) Statements indicating the State-wise procurement of foodgrains (wheat and rice) during the last three year's and current year are given in Statement I and II (*See below*). Statements showing State- wise allocation of foodgrains (wheat and