14. **Simplification of Trade Procedures**

Exchanges should design their market procedures and contracts so as to enable farmers an easy access to these markets and provide protection against any market malpractice. The structure of markets, contract designs and other requirement of trading on these markets should be simple and easy to enable farmers to participate in these markets.

15. **Miscellaneous**

Some of the other aspects which can be looked into are:—

- Value-addition Units/Processing Units of major commodities in the concerned area may be established under the co-operative fold or in the PPP mode so that the farmers get value-addition done to their produce.

- The scale of finance fixed for the crops have to be revised periodically to account for the increasing cost of cultivation and the general inflation.

- Agriculture Department/ICAR, in association with the traders, can organize farmer education programmes to guide SF/MFs.

- Establishment of an Export Facilitating Office in the Districts, especially in respect of the crops with export-potential and in the Districts where such crops are grown, together with quality certification agencies, will go a long way in aiding all categories of farmers in better marketing of the crops and in higher realization of price/income.

**Monthly quota of essential commodities under PDS**

2523. **SHRI BHBANESWAR KALITA:** Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

   (a) what is the monthly quota fixed for various essential commodities distributed through Public Distribution System in Assam;

   (b) the details of actual release of quota for the State during the last three years; and

   (c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD, AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):** (a) to (c)
Government of India allocates foodgrains @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted number of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families in Assam. The monthly quota of levy sugar is 700 grams per person per month.

Government of India allocates PDS Kerosene to States/Union Territories (UTs) on quarterly basis for distribution under PDS for cooking and illumination only. Further, distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network to card holders as per their respective criteria, is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs.

The total quantity of foodgrains, levy sugar and kerosene allocated and lifted by Assam under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the last three years is as under:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Foodgrains (In lakh tonnes)</th>
<th>Sugar (In lakh MTs)</th>
<th>Kerosene (In KL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allocation</td>
<td>Lifting</td>
<td>Allocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>15.75</td>
<td>14.23</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>24.42</td>
<td>19.56</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>20.42</td>
<td>18.77</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lower offtake by the State is mainly in the additional allocation attributable to State’s inability to absorb additional allocation due to further subsidization by the State Government to the targeted beneficiaries, short placement of stocks at some Food Corporation of India (FCI) depots due to movement bottlenecks resulting from inadequate placement of rail rakes. In order to improve lifting, Government has been favourably considering the request of the State Government for extension of validity for lifting of the allocated quantity under TPDS. Further, the Government has also been taking up the matter with the State Government through periodical meetings and communications at various levels with them.

**Consumer awareness and education programmes**

2524. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the details of consumer awareness and education programmes conducted in various States during the last year;