

- Banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil and forest based oil) and edible oils in blended consumer packs upto 5 kg with a capacity of 20,000 tonnes per annum and pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses and lentils up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes per annum).
- Imposed stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, and edible oilseeds and in the case of paddy and rice for specific seven States upto 30.11.2012.
- Ban on export of onion was imposed for short period of time whenever required. Exports of onion were calibrated through the mechanism of Minimum Export Prices (MEP).
- Maintained the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY) since 2002.
- Suspended Futures trading in rice, urad, tur, guar gum and guar seed.
- To ensure adequate availability of sugar for the households covered under TPDS, the levy obligation on sugar factories was restored to 10% for sugar season 2011-12.
- Government allocated rice and wheat under OMSS Scheme.
- Decided to resume the scheme for subsidized imported pulses through PDS in a varied form with the nomenclature "Scheme for Supply of Imported Pulses at Subsidized rates to States/UTs for Distribution under PDS to BPL card holders" with a subsidy element of Rs. 20/- per Kg for the residual part of the current year and extended the scheme for subsidized imported edible oils to 30.9.2013 with subsidy of Rs.15/- per Kg for import of upto 10 lakh tonnes of edible oils for this period.

Food Guarantee Scheme

332. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to roll out the Food Guarantee Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the recommendations made by Kelkar Committee on subsidy cuts; and
- (e) Government's stand in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The then President of India in her address to the Joint Session of Parliament on 4th June, 2009, *inter-alia*, announced that a new Act—the National Food Security Act—will be enacted to provide a statutory basis for a framework which assures food security for all and entitle by law, every BPL family to 25 kg per month of rice or wheat @ Rs. 3/kg. In pursuance of this announcement, Government has introduced the National Food Security Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2011. Salient features of the Bill are given in the Statement (*See below*). The Bill is presently under examination by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

(d) and (e) The recommendations of the Kelkar Committee mainly emphasize on adjusting the price of petroleum products on regular basis in incremental steps towards eventual deregulation of diesel and an affordable level of subsidy on LPG and Kerosene, increase the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of Urea, efficient system of foodgrain delivery and linking of increases in Central Issue Price (CIP) of foodgrains to increases in Minimum Support Price (MSP). Government has broadly accepted the recommendation of the Committee with some reservations.

Statement

Salient features of the National Food Security Bill, 2011

- Upto 75% of the rural population (with at least 46% from priority category) and upto 50% of urban population (with at least 28% from priority category) to be covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- 7 kg of foodgrains per person per month to be given to priority category households at Rs. 3, 2 and 1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains, respectively.

- At least 3 kg of foodgrains per person per month to be given to general category households, at prices not exceeding 50% of Minimum Support Price.
- Women to be made head of the household for the purpose of issue of ration cards.
- Nutritional support to women and children.
- Maternity benefit to pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- End-to-end computerisation of TPDS.
- Three-tier independent grievance redressal mechanism.
- Social audit by local bodies such as Gram Panchayats, Village Councils etc.
- Meals for special groups such as destitute, homeless persons, emergency/disaster affected persons and persons living in starvation.
- Food Security Allowance in case of non-supply of foodgrains or meals.

Criterion for FPS

333. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the criterion for establishing a Fair Price Shop (FPS) in an area;
- (b) whether geographical distribution is taken into account to establish an FPS; and
- (c) what are the measures being taken by Government to re-organise PDS in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations wherein States/UTs are responsible for licensing, regulation and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

Some of the key criteria prescribed in the guidelines laid down by the Central Government for opening of new FPSs relating to the geographical distribution, coverage of rural areas, etc. are as follows: