

(c) During the current year *i.e.*, 2012-13, the estimated rice procurement in respect of Assam is 1.0 lakh tonnes, against which a quantity of 0.04 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured upto 27.02.2013.

(d) Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board (nominated by State Government on its behalf) are the agencies engaged in the procurement of paddy in the State.

(e) There are no reports of any constraint faced by the agencies in the procurement of paddy in the State of Assam.

### **Conference on Food Security Bill**

653. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference was held recently with all the State Food Ministers to discuss about the National Food Security Bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many States have expressed reservations on the Bill;

(d) if so, the details of States and the reservations so expressed;

(e) the reasons behind such reservations/apprehensions;

(f) what steps the Ministry is taking to allay those reservations;

(g) whether some States have expressed exemption from the purview of the Bill; and

(h) if so, the details of such States and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (f) A meeting of Food Ministers and Food Secretaries of States/Union Territories (UTs) was held on 13.02.2013 in New Delhi to discuss recommendations of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on the National Food Security Bill, 2011. States/UTs expressed their views on recommendations of the Standing Committee on various aspects of the Bill, including coverage under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) at 75% and 50% for rural and urban population respectively,

identification of beneficiaries, foodgrain entitlement of 5 kg. per person per month under TPDS, sharing of expenditure etc.

After finalizing its views on recommendations of the Standing Committee, Government will move necessary amendments to the Bill, wherever required, for consideration of the Parliament.

(g) and (h) Government of Tamil Nadu while offering its views on various aspects of the Bill has requested that the Government of India should exempt Tamil Nadu from the implementation of the proposed Food Security Bill and allow Tamil Nadu State to implement the existing Universal Public Distribution System as it is more effective, robust and time tested.

#### **Display of taxes on menu cards in restaurants**

†654. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government does not feel that the rates of the food items should be displayed in the menu card of all the restaurants after including the taxes because generally people place order after seeing the menu card and later get inflated bills;

(b) whether Government would formulate any policy and direct all the State Governments in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (c) No Sir, under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the consumer has been guaranteed right to information regarding products and its prices. Hence, it is desirable that prices of food items and quantum of taxes should be separately shown so that the consumer knows exactly how much money is going to the Government and how much is being paid towards food consumed.

#### **Foodgrains in buffer stocks**

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

(a) whether foodgrains kept in buffer stocks are mandatorily replaced every year;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.