

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (c) For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of the Registrar General of India (RGI) as on 1st March, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Allocation of foodgrains to about 11.52 crore Above Poverty Line (APL) families are also made depending upon the availability of foodgrains in Cenral pool and past offtake.

The National Food Security Bill (NFSB) introduced in Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011 provides for coverage of 75% and 50% of the rural and urban population respectively under TPDS. Under the Bill, allocations of foodgrains to States/UTs are proposed to be revised annually based on actual or estimated population, as the case may be.

(d) As per information received from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, at present there is no proposal to increase the PDS Kerosene quota of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Construction of silos for storage

†660. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of centres and the capacities of silos proposed to be built for foodgrain storage in the country and by when its construction/tender process is likely to be started;

(b) the names of other schemes regarding foodgrain storage/safety; and

(c) the number of letters received from me in this regard and suggestions received from other persons, the action taken thereon and the status, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) The name of the centres and the capacities of the silos proposed to be built for foodgrain storage in the country is as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	State	Silo capacity in MT	Approved locations
1.	Bihar	2,00,000	Kaimur, Buxar, Bhagalpur, Bettiah. (50,000 MT each)
2.	Haryana	3,00,000	Bhattu, Jind, Karnal, Palwal, Rohtak, Sonapat (50,000 MT each)
3.	M.P.	3,50,000	Sehore, Jabalpur, Raisen, Vidisha, Guna, Hoshangabad, Ujjain (50,000 MT each)
4.	Punjab	4,00,000	Barnala, Chhehreatta, Patiala, Jalalabad, Kilaraipur, Sangrur, Dhuri, Batala (50,000 MT each)
5.	West Bengal	2,00,000	Rangapani, Malda, Dankuni, Mecheda (50,000 MT each)
6.	Assam	50,000	Guwahati (Changsari) and Dibrugarh (25,000 MT each)
7.	Kerala	50,000	Eranakulam and Calicut (25,000 MT each)
8.	Maharashtra	1,00,000	Pune, Nagpur (50,000 MT each)
9.	U.P.	3,00,000	Jaunpur, Kannauj, Faizabad, Fatehpur, Basti, Deoria (50,000 MT each)
10.	Gujarat	50,000	Between Palanpur (Banaskantha) and Siddhapur (Patan)
TOTAL		20,00,000	

The bid documents are being made ready the construction/tender process would start thereafter.

(b) The Government is implementing the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme to augment the covered storage capacity through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs).

The FCI guarantees to hire godowns constructed under this scheme for a period of ten years, thereby, ensuring for the investor, a fair return on his investment. A capacity of 181.08 lakh MTs (as on 31.12.2012) has been approved for the construction of godowns in 19 States out of which a capacity of 130 lakh MTs has been sanctioned for construction. Further additional capacities of 14.35 lakh MTs for Uttar Pradesh and 2 lakh MTs in silos have been sanctioned for West Bengal. For ensuring long-term scientific storage, the Government has also approved construction of 20 lakh MTs of storage capacity in silos within the overall sanctioned capacity of the PEG Scheme. The Government has finalized a Plan scheme especially for the North East, for creation of an additional storage capacity of 5.40 lakh MT's through the FCI. To meet the short-term storage requirements, the ED (Zones) and GMs of FCI have been given full powers for hiring godowns.

(c) Letters received in this regard are examined and considered in the Ministry, and the schemes are implemented as per the existing Government guidelines.

Digitization of PDS records

661. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 954 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 2012 and state:

(a) the details of impact of the steps taken for digitization of PDS beneficiaries' database; and

(b) the status of digitization undertaken, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) Digitization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) related data, including beneficiary data, is a primary step to be taken by States/Union Territories (UTs) for computerization of TPDS. Digitization of beneficiaries' database is expected to ensure correct identification of beneficiaries, distribution of TPDS commodities to deserving beneficiaries, elimination of bogus/duplicate ration cards, etc., thereby putting a check on leakages/diversion of TPDS commodities. In some States, modification/updation of beneficiary data through online software has helped in improving the service delivery and bringing transparency of information.

(b) Digitization of Ration Cards/Beneficiary database is reported to have been completed in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Daman and Diu, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Punjab, Puducherry,