

Identification of beneficiaries

667. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many State Food Ministers, in the consultation meeting held recently in New Delhi, differed on the provisions relating to identification of beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many State Governments wanted a Universal Public Distribution System; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) The National Food Security Bill (NFSB), as introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011, provides that identification of priority and general households shall be done by State Governments or such other agency as may be decided by the Central Government, in accordance with guidelines prescribed by Central Government. The Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, to which the Bill was referred for examination, has recommended that identification of beneficiaries should be based on exclusion criteria to be devised in consultation with State Governments. During the meeting held on 13.02.2013 with Food Ministers and Food Secretaries of States/UTs to discuss the recommendations of the Standing Committee, there was a broad agreement with this recommendation of the Standing Committee.

(c) and (d) Some States have proposed universalizing the Public Distribution System (PDS). However, the NFSB provides for coverage of 75% and 50% of the rural and urban population respectively under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) keeping in view the current trends in production and procurement of foodgrains.

Decontrolling sugar

668. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to decontrol the sugar industry;