

(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) Central Government allocates foodgrains (wheat, rice and coarse grains) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to States and UTs for distribution to 6.52 crore accepted number of BPL families, which includes about 2.43 crore AAY families. However, State/UT Governments have reported issued higher number of ration cards. The evaluation, studies of TPDS has shown that there are instances of improper targeting of the poor households and there are inclusion as well as exclusion errors. The number of BPL ration cards, including AAY ration cards, issued by them in the last three years is given as below :

(figures in crore)

Year	Number of BPL/AAY ration cards issued by States/UTs
2010-11 (as up to 31.03.2011)	10.75
2011-12 (as up to 31.03.2012)	10.76
2012-13 (as up to 31.03.2013)	11.12

In terms of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, State/UT Governments are to review the lists of BPL and AAY families every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. The exercise of deletion of bogus/ineligible cards and inclusion of eligible families is a continuous process and State Governments are to periodically carry out the same. During the last three years *i.e.* 2010, 2011 and 2012, States/UTs have reported deletion of 4.66 lakh, 2.85 lakh and 9.14 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards respectively.

#### **Lack of quality research work**

\*552. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite having better scientific research institutions, R and D and innovation capabilities in India are lower than other BRICS countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether innovation is lacking in the country and the research undertaken by institutions, public or private, is not turning out into commercial ventures in a significant way; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) and (b) The Global Competitiveness Report 2012-13 brought out by the World Economic Forum, provides relative rank of 144 nations including BRICS. Among the BRICS countries China is ranked at 33, India at 41, South Africa at 42, Brazil at 49 and Russian Federation at 85 in terms of innovation capabilities.

(c) and (d) The commercialisation of research outputs from private and public funded institutions into commercial ventures in the country would require a significantly higher level of private sector investments for translating research and development than what is realised at present. The new Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STI), 2013 expects a significant rise in the level of engagement of private sector for commercialisation of innovation from R and D.

The Government expects to achieve the goal through various measures enumerated in New STI Policy, 2013 and related strategic action.

#### **Allocation of funds under MGNREGA**

†\*553. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of fund earmarked under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for the States and Union Territories during the Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether States have utilized the funds allocated to them under MGNREGA during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if not, the States which could not utilize the allocated funds; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.