

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A Technical Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Advisor (Projects), Ministry of Coal and comprising of representatives from Coal India Limited, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited, Coal Controller, Director General of Hydrocarbons and Consultant, Ministry of Coal for identifying new coal/lignite blocks.

Views of States on NFSB

1416. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States have expressed reservations on the proposed National Food Security Bill (NFSB) the State Food Ministers conference held recently at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of views expressed by the State Food Ministers/Chief Ministers in the said conference;

(c) whether in view of drought in several parts of the country and low production of food grains, the valid NFSB would be enforced; and

(d) if so, the manner in which it would be enforced and the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) 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.

(c) and (d) At the current levels of production and procurement of foodgrains, any shortfall in availability of foodgrains is not foreseen, so far as meeting the estimated requirement of foodgrains under the National Food Security Bill is concerned.

However, in order to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains, the Government has set a target of production of additional 25 million tons of foodgrains in the Twelfth Five Year Plan. Government is taking steps to increase productivity in non-traditional areas and to stabilize production in traditional areas, by seeking to improve agriculture infrastructure, promote sustainable agriculture through better national resource management and favourable terms of trade for food crops through remunerative Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) and marketing support to farmers.

Corruption, hoarding and black marketing in PDS

1417. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains through Public Distribution System to the poor families throughout the country at subsidized prices is stinking of corruption, hoarding and black marketing as per vigilance committee report;

(b) whether it is also a fact that beneficiaries in some States get ration for a month after a delay of two to four months;

(c) whether Government is aware that in some States foodgrains are sold at excessive prices at fair price shops;

(d) if so, whether Government is taking any steps against the erring outlets;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) Central Vigilance Committee (CVC) with Justice (Retd.) D. P. Wadhwa as Chairman was set up by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to look into maladies affecting functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) and to suggest remedial measures. The CVC has submitted its various reports to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. In the reports, CVC