

- (c) the details about the provisions for price regulation of the same; and
- (d) the details of the reasons for variations in prices of different brands of bottled water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are 3486 licences for Packaged Drinking Water as per IS 14543 and 22 licenses for Packaged Natural Mineral Water as per IS 13428. These two Indian Standards were notified for mandatory BIS Standard Mark as per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India Regulation, 2011. As per Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition & Restriction on Sales) (Amendment) Regulation, 2011, "No person shall manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale, Natural Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water, except under the BIS Mark". In order to obtain the BIS Certification Mark, manufacturers are required to obtain BIS Certification Marks Licence, and a licence number is given, which is unique for each licence. This Standard Mark, to be affixed on the labels of containers of Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) and Packaged Natural Mineral Water (PNMW) includes the licence number given to the manufacturer.

The authenticity of Packaged Drinking Water and Packaged Natural Mineral Water is verified by checking this unique licence number (CML-No.).

(c) and (d) Under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 certain declarations like name and address of the manufacture/packer/importer, name of the commodity, net quantity, month and year of manufacturing, retail sale price in the form of Maximum Retail Price (MRP) Rs... inclusive of all taxes and consumer care details are mandatory. Rules provide that consumers can not be charged more than the MRP for the products sold. The exact MRP is fixed by companies depending on cost of production, cost of delivery, market forces and competition etc.

Monthly quota of kerosene, rice, wheat and edible oil

1421. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the present monthly quota of kerosene, rice, wheat and edible oil fixed under Targeted Public Distribution System for Assam, item-wise;
- (b) whether allocation of these items to the State is sufficient; and

(c) if not, the action taken to raise the existing allocation, as demanded by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Foodgrains (rice & wheat): Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Government of India is presently making monthly allocation of 124398 tons of rice and 32840 tons of wheat to Assam at the rate of 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month for all the accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families of the State.

In addition, 237067 tons of rice has also been allocated to the State during 2012-13.

Government of India allocates foodgrains on the basis of March, 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India and 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission of India. According to that sufficient allocation of foodgrains have been made to the State.

Kerosene: Government of India has allocated a quota of 3,28,152 Kilo Litre (KL) of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene to Assam during 2012-13. PDS kerosene quota of the States/UTs is broadly determined by rationalizing the previous year's allocation on the basis of factors, such as increase in domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections, lapse of PDS kerosene quota and cap on the PDS kerosene allocation for non-LPG population. However, keeping in view the peculiar geographical location/law and order situation in the North Eastern States, including Assam, PDS kerosene quota has not been revised downwards except reduction of lapsed quota of earlier year. Further, to meet the special needs of PDS kerosene. State Governments are allowed to draw one month quota of PDS kerosene at non-subsidized rates during each financial year.

Edible Oils: The allocation of edible oils is made to States as per demands received and there is no fixed quota. No demand has been received from Assam for allocation of edible oils for distribution through PDS.

Increase in food prices

†1422. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.