

(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.

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of low growth rate of wholesale price index in January, 2013, the increase in the prices of food items was in double digits in the country;

(b) if so, the details of increase in wholesale price index and consumer price index in January, 2013; and

(c) the reasons for not bringing the prices of foodgrains down in spite of availability of surplus foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per the Wholesale Index (WPI), the rate of inflation for Food Articles group stood at 11.88% for the month of January 2013 as against 6.62% for All Commodities for the same month. In January, 2013 the rate of inflation was 18.09% for cereals, 16.89% for pulses, 28.45% for vegetables, 10.99% for sugar and 7.26% for edible oils.

Provisional annual inflation rate based on the all India general CP I (Consumer Price Index) (Combined) for January 2013 on point to point basis (January, 2013 over January, 2012) is 10.79% as against 13.36% for the group Food and Beverages which includes, inter alia, cereals, pulses, oils, milk, vegetables, fruits, sugar etc.

(c) Concerted efforts have been made to bring down the prices of food items and the steps in operation by the Government to contain price rise in essential commodities are given in the Statement.

Statement

The Steps in operation by the Government to contain price rise in essential commodities inter-alia include the following:

- Reduced import duties to zero - for wheat, onion and pulses and to 7.5% for refined and hydrogenated oils & vegetable oils.
- Import duty on sugar has been kept at 10%.
- Banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil, forest based oil and edible oils in blended consumer packs upto 5 kg with a Minimum Export Price of USD 1500 per MT) and pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses and lentils up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes per annum).

- Imposed stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities such as pulses, edible oils and edible oilseeds for a period upto 30.9.2013 and in respect of paddy and rice upto 30.11.2013.
- Maintained the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY) since 2002.
- Suspended Futures trading in rice, urad and tur.
- To ensure adequate availability of sugar for the households covered under TPDS, the levy obligation on sugar factories was restored to 10%.
- Government allocated rice and wheat under OMSS Scheme.
- The scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through PDS with a subsidy element of Rs. 20/- per Kg is presently under operation. The scheme for subsidized imported edible oils has been extended upto 30.9.2013 with subsidy of Rs. 15/- per Kg.

Bogus ration cards

1423. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bogus/ineligible ration cards were found throughout the country and out of them 266.80 lakh were deleted as on 30 June, 2012; and

(b) if so, the number of bogus/ineligible ration cards found in Andhra Pradesh?

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

(b) Upto 30.06.2012, State Government of Andhra Pradesh had reported deletion of 27.27 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards.

Involvement of PRIs in PDS operations

1424. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: