

Wheat procurement target

1631. 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 with private players aggressively buying wheat directly from farmers, Government has revised the procurement target downwards by 25 per cent to 33 million metric tonne for the marketing year 2013-14;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said move will help Government to save about Rs. 3,000 crore; 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) Under the current Price Support system, the procurement of wheat is open-ended and no target for its procurement are fixed by the Government. However, based on the inputs received from the States, the estimate of procurement of wheat is made before commencement of the marketing season. For the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2013-14, against a projected estimate of procurement of 441.21 lakh tons, the procurement is now estimated to be around 251 lakh tons only.

(c) and (d) The lesser procurement of wheat during RMS 2013-14 is likely to result in reduced financial burden on the Government. However, no estimation of saving on account of reduced procurement has been made by the Government.

Foodgrains allocation under PDS as per latest census on BPL families

1632. 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 Government is considering to ensure foodgrains allocation under Public Distribution System (PDS) as per the latest census on BPL families; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number to BPL families were kept out from the PDS cover as Government followed the 1991 census figures which put the BPL population very low, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Government has promulgated the National Food Security Ordinance (NFSO), 2013 on 5.7.2013 to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach. As per the Ordinance, 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population, at the all India level, will be entitled to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Corresponding to the above referred coverage at the national level, the State-wise coverage will be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the census 2011 of which the relevant figures have been published. Within the coverage under TPDS determined for each State, the identification of households is to be done by respective State Governments.

(b) No, Sir. For allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) to States and Union Territories (Uts) under TPDS, Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families baed on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of Registrar General of India (RGI) as on 1st March 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less.

Imact of Food Security Bill on PDS

1633. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that modernisation of Public Distribution System (PDS) has come to a grinding hald due to the proposed Food Security Bill; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?