

(i) The bidders may be allowed to bid anywhere in the Revenue District in the hilly areas.

(ii) Provision for furnishing Non-Encumbrance Certificate (NEC) with technical bid has been relaxed.

(iii) Provision for High Tension line free land at the time of site inspection, has also been relaxed.

Identification of BPL families

2253. SHRI RABINARAYAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is allocating BPL rice for 27.76 lakh families @ 35 kg. per family as per survey in 1997 and Government of Odisha is distributing it to 42.31 lakhs families @ 25 kg. per family per month at present;

(b) whether Government is awaiting Hashim Committee Report to identify BPL families; and

(c) whether in 2011 census, the number of BPL families have increased to 97 lakhs, but Government is not enhancing BPL rice quota to Government of Odisha even at its several requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) For allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based 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. As per these estimates, the total number of BPL families in the country is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Under the TPDS, the State of Odisha is being allotted 141391 tons of rice @ 35 kg per family per month for 32.98 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including 12.65 lakh Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

As reported by State of Odisha upto 30.06.2013, they have issued 49.43 lakh BPL ration cards including 12.65 lakh AAY cards. State Government has reported

distribution of foodgrains @ 25 kg per family per month for BPL category and foodgrains @ 35 kg per family per month to AAY category.

(b) In so far identification of families for distribution of foodgrains under TPDS is concerned, Government has introduced the National Food Security Bill (NFSB), 2013 on 07.08.2013 which Government passed in the Lok Sabha on 26.08.2013. As per the Bill, 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population at the all India level, will be entitled to receive 5 kg of subsidized foodgrains per person per month under TPDS. The existing AAY households will however continue to receive 35 kgs of foodgrains per household per month. The Bill *inter-alia* provides that within the coverage under TPDS determined for each State, the identification of priority households is to be done by State Governments in accordance with guidelines to be prescribed by them.

(c) Considering the requests of the State Government of Odisha and availability of stocks in the Central Pool, Government of India has been making additional allocation of rice to the State of Odisha for BPL families over and above normal BPL allocation since 2010-11. Odisha was allotted additional 252906 tons of rice each for 2010-11 and 2011-12 and 227615 tons of rice in 2012-13 for additional BPL families. Further, 143702 tons and 204647 tons of rice was allotted in 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively for additional BPL/AAY families in the poorest/backward districts of Odisha.

Rise in prices of wheat, pulses etc.

2254. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of wheat, pulses and other essential commodities like edible oil and sugar have sharply increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government has taken/ proposes to take to check their prices so that these items are within reach of common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) which is an indicator of general price trend, show that during the period 2010 to 2012 the annual rate of inflation for Primary Food Articles