

Implementation of Food Security Act

1789.. SHRI T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is prepared to implement the new Food Security Act, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether implementation would be delayed because of the issues such as cost sharing between the Centre and States, as well as Identification of beneficiaries;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) whether the Act totally overlooks the nutritional aspect and the choice of cereals to the beneficiaries spread across the country with variable food habits; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS) : (a) to (c) The National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA), notified on 10th September, 2013, has deemed to have come into force on 05.07.2013. The Act *inter alia* provides for a period not exceeding 365 days after the commencement of the Act for identification of eligible households for receiving subsidized foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

As regards cost sharing, the entitlements of pregnant women and lactating mothers and children upto 14 years of age to nutritious meals, are to be delivered through existing Integrated Child Development Services and Mid Day Meal schemes for which cost sharing norms already exist. A pilot scheme for maternity benefit *viz.* Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana is also under implementation in select districts of the country. The Act provides that the schemes, guidelines, orders, etc., existing on the date of commencement of the Act, shall continue to be in force till such schemes, guidelines, orders etc. are specified or notified under the Act or the rules made thereunder.

In view of the above, no delay in implementation of the Act is envisaged at this stage.

(d) and (e) No Sir, there is a special focus in the Act on nutritional support to pregnant women and lactating mothers and children upto 14 years of age.

Foodgrains in the Act are defined as rice, wheat or coarse grains or any combination thereof. While making allocation of foodgrains to States / UTs, local preferences are kept in view, subject to availability.

Hoardings of Onions

1790.. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

SHRI A. A. JINNAH:

SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether media reports indicated that because of hoarding by middlemen, onion prices shot upto Rs. 100 per kg, whereas farmers got only Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per kg;

(b) whether middlemen made a whopping profit of more than Rs. 800 crore per week;

(d) if so, how many onion hoarders have been raided by Government, till date, and amount recovered from them;

(d) if not, why Government is unable to book hoarders, although TV channels get easy access to them; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS) : (a) to (b) No official information on the matter was received by the Government.

(c) to (e) In order to check hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities, necessary provisions have been made under the Essential Commodities