THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) Annual food subsidy implication of implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) at 2014-15 costs, is estimated to be around ₹ 1,31,086 crore, against which, ₹ 1,10,500 crore has been provided in the current year budget. In addition to this an amount of ₹ 4500 crore has been allotted for sugar subsidy.

(b) and (c) NFSA is deemed to have come into force on 05.07.2013. Its implementation is contingent upon identification of eligible households by States/UTs for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). For which a period not exceeding 365 days has been provided in the Act. However, as this exercise is yet to be completed in many States/UTs, they have been requested to complete the identification and take other preparatory measures at the earliest and ensure implementation of the Act within next three months. The issue of payment of food security allowance arises only after implementation of the Act starts in respective States/UTs.

Scrutiny of cardholders in Chhattisgarh

†2523. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food policy of Chhattisgarh, under which the poor cardholders are being examined, is in accordance with the National Food Security Act;

(b) whether this scrutiny of the cardholders has caused quite a stir in the villages and cities of Chhattisgarh, if so, whether Central Government is issuing any directions to abrogate the same; and

(c) whether it was proposed to put in place the highly lauded PDS system of Chhattisgarh in the entire country and whether Government would support to maintain *status quo* for the aforesaid system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) *inter alia* provides that within the coverage determined for each State/Union Territory, the State Government is to identify the households to be covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Government of Chhattisgarh has confirmed their preparedness for implementation of NFSA, 2013 *inter alia* stating that identification of beneficiaries has been done as per

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

criteria prescribed in the Chhattisgarh Food Security Act. Accordingly, based on the preparedness and identification of beneficiaries under TPDS reported by Chhattisgarh, allocation of foodgrains to it has started under the Act. Government of Chhattisgarh has also reported that their food policy is in accordance with NFSA, 2013.

(b) In view of the above, the question of Central Government issuing directions for abrogation of the process of identification does not arise. As informed by Government of Chhattisgarh, a time-frame of 45 days has been given to all ineligible persons to surrender their cards.

(c) No, Sir.

Setting up of National Food Grid

2524. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that price of tomato has reached up to ₹ 60/-per kg. during second week of July, 2014;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up National Food Grid to curb price-rise of vegetables and other essential items and to ensure proper availability of essential items in every part of the country; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) As per the daily prices reported from 59 centres across the country, the maximum retail price of tomato during the second week of July 2014 was at ₹ 50 per kg at Aizwal only.

The recent rise in the prices of tomato is due to the shortfall in supply on account of adverse weather conditions in the major producing areas.

(c) and (d) A formal decision in this regard is yet to be taken by the Government.

Supply of foodgrains under Food Security Act

†2525. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States which have implemented the Food Security Act;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.