

(c) whether the Ministry is aware of shortage of foodgrains and the necessity of buffer stocks in inaccessible and cut off areas of J&K; and

(d) whether Government will meet the demand and increase the quota of J&K, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) to (d) Requests have been received from Government of Jammu and Kashmir for increased allocation of foodgrains to the State as per 2011 census. The State Government has been requested to expedite the implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA) in the State as this will enable them to receive foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) as per 2011 population at highly subsidized rates.

The States/Union Territories (UTs) who have not implemented NFSA so far are allocated foodgrains under TPDS as per March, 2000 population estimates. Government of India has been allocating additional foodgrains to these States/UTs, including J&K to meet their demand for enhanced allocation in view of the increased population.

During 2014-15, an additional allocation of 52,685 tonnes of rice and 4,569 tonnes of wheat has been made to J&K in addition to normal monthly TPDS allocation of 63,067 tonnes of foodgrains. Government has also allowed States/UTs to lift 6 months' quota of foodgrains in one go so that they have sufficient stock to meet the TPDS demand in remote and difficult areas of the State.

#### **Use of sea-river-road route for transportation of foodgrains**

3298. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has proposed to move foodgrains from Kakinada/Visakhapatnam to Agartala, North-East, by sea-river-road route to save transportation costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time taken for transportation as compared to the conventional rail-road route;

(d) the other destinations where FCI proposes to move foodgrains by sea-river-road combination route; and

(e) what would be the cost and benefit ratio in the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) has taken steps to transport 10,000 tonnes of foodgrains on experimental basis from Kakinada/Visakhapatnam to Agartala to explore the possibility of transportation of foodgrains to North East region by using Indo-Bangladesh protocol riverine route. First vessel carrying 5,000 tonnes Raw Rice has already been dispatched from Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Conventional movement by Rail/road takes 8-12 days to transport foodgrains from Punjab and Haryana to Agartala. Foodgrains are normally not sent from Andhra Pradesh to North East region using Rail and Road route. Since the transportation of foodgrains to Agartala through riverine route is being done for very small quantities on experimental basis, it is not possible to ascertain the average transportation time.

(d) FCI has proposed movement of foodgrains from Andhra Pradesh to Karimganj (Assam), using sea-river-road route. However, it has not been agreed upon by Government due to very high costs quoted by bidder.

(e) Since the movement by sea-river-road is being done on experimental basis for very small quantities, it is not possible to conduct cost benefit analysis.

#### **Measures to improve PDS**

3299. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to introduce any measures to improve the efficacy of the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Government has undertaken several measures from time to time for streamlining the implementation and improving the efficacy of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Government has taken up with States/UTs for implementing measures such as door-step delivery of foodgrains, correct identification of beneficiaries, improve foodgrains offtake, greater monitoring and vigilance, improving viability of fair price shop operations, etc. Best practices among States/UTs in TPDS implementation are shared through conferences, advisories, etc. for use by other States/UTs. With a view to modernize the system, the Government has initiated a Plan Scheme on End-to-end