

(II) *Action taken by the State Governments/UT Administrations and detentions reported under the Preventions of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during 2011 to 2014 (up to 31.12.2014)*:*

Name of the State	2011	2012	2013	2014 (As on 31.12.2014)
Gujarat	67	41	34	18
Tamil Nadu	198	187	179	124
Maharashtra	05	03	01	-
TOTAL	270	231	214	142

*Latest available

Regulation of e-commerce

1841. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to regulate e-commerce in the country;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted to look into the issues like false offers, selling of fake products, offering of massive discounts, allegations of dodging of taxes etc., if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the booming e-commerce industry poses a threat to the brick and mortar players, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) There is at present no proposal under consideration for regulation of e-commerce in the country.

- (b) No official data on the e-commerce sector is being compiled.
- (c) There have been formal complaints submitted to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) under M/o Corporate Affairs against unfair trade practices including fraudulent schemes by online retailers based on which investigation has been initiated.

Implementation of NFSA

1842. DR. T.N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of hunger/starvation deaths reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether India is projected to miss the UN Millennium Development Goals for eradication of hunger, if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the current level of agricultural productivity/production and procurement of foodgrains will be a limitation in successful implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for successful and effective implementation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) No State Government/Union Territory Administration has reported any incident of death due to hunger/starvation so far.

(b) The Government of India has assessed the progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in its report "Millennium Development Goals - India Country Report 2014". India is required to reduce the proportion of underweight children below 3 years of age from estimated 52 % in 1990 to 26% by 2015. As per this report, the proportion of underweight children is expected to come down to about 33% by 2015. Thus India will fall short of achieving the target of 26%.

However, to eradicate the problem of hunger/starvation and to provide food security to the vulnerable population, the Government has been providing food grains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls, Annapurna Scheme etc.

During the current year 2014-15, the Govt. of India has so far allocated 614.53 lakh tons of foodgrains under TPDS and OWS. This includes allocation of 483.70 lakh tons under TPDS, 66.45 lakh tons additional APL and BPL allocation, 12.04 lakh tons for natural calamities, additional TPDS requirements etc., and allocation of 52.34 lakh tons of foodgrains under OWS.

To further strengthen the efforts to address the food security of the people, Government of India has notified the National Food Security Act, 2013 on 10th September, 2013. The act provides for coverage of up to 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices of ₹ 3, 2 & 1 per Kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-third of the population.

The Act also has a special focus on nutritional support to women and children, pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to meals as nutritional norms as well as to receive maternity benefit of not less than ₹ 6,000. Children upto 14 years of age will be entitled to nutritious meals or take home rations as per the prescribed nutritional standards. In case of non supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The coverage and entitlements prescribed in the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) are keeping in view the recent trends in production and procurement of foodgrains. The annual requirement of foodgrains for implementation of Act is estimated at 614.4 lakh tons, which is likely to be met adequately at the current levels of production and procurement of foodgrains.

PDS items not reaching intended beneficiaries

1843. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately 40 per cent of foodgrains allocated under Public Distribution System (PDS) do not reach the intended beneficiaries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that major beneficiaries of PDS are people from States that have a smaller number of poor; and

(c) whether some States have covered their 100 per cent population under PDS, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) No data regarding the quantum of diversion, based on recent evaluation study, is available. However, based on surveys