

for fruits and vegetables and artificial shortages due to hoarding and black-marketing.

The recent steps initiated by the Government to contain price rise of essential food items including fruits and vegetables are given in the Statement-II. [*Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 575 (Part c)*].

#### **Coverage of NFSA**

578. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to reduce the coverage of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that NFSA has not been implemented in all the States as yet; and

(c) if so, the States which have not implemented the NFSA, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE) : (a) No Sir. The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is already in force and there is no proposal for any amendment to the Act.

(b) and (c) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) has deemed to have come into force on 05.07.2013. It *inter alia* provides for a period not exceeding 365 days to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for identification of eligible households for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Allocation of foodgrains to 11 States/Union Territories (UTs) namely, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan has started under the Act based on the preparedness and identification of beneficiaries for coverage under the Act, reported by them.

Remaining 25 States/UTs have not completed all the preparatory measures required for implementation of the Act. Implementation of the Act is reviewed on a regular basis and necessary advisories are issued to States/UTs, wherever required. As Period of 365 days for identification of eligible households got over on 04.07.2014, an additional three months time was given to these States/UTs to complete the identification exercise and other preparatory measures, and start implementation of the Act, which has been further extended by another six months, *i.e.* till 04.04.2015.

#### **Pendency of consumer cases**

579. PROF. M.V. RAJEEVGOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is making any efforts towards filling up of vacancies in consumer courts;
- (b) whether any measures is being taken by Government to reduce pendency of cases despite the legal limit for disposal of cases being 90 days, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government is planning to establish more consumer courts in proportion to the population requirement, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE) : (a) As per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, it is the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs to fill up the vacancies in the District Fora and State Consumer Redressal Commissions. However, the Government regularly advises the State Governments to take measure in this regard.

(b) The various steps taken to clear the pendency of cases in time bound manner are as under:

- (1) State Governments have been requested from time-to-time to take action well in advance for filling up of vacancies of President and Members and to maintain a panel of candidates for filling up of future vacancies also to avoid delay in appointments.
- (2) Circuit Benches from National Commission have been frequently visiting States.
- (3) Some State Commissions have constituted Additional Benches mainly to dispose off backlog of pending cases.