

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Yes, Sir, it is on Karnataka. Lots of youths from Karnataka have requested...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid. Mr. Seelam, I am sorry. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Aadhaar-based cash transfer to NFSA beneficiaries

*51. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether High Level Committee on restructuring FCI has sought for lowering the coverage of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from 67 per cent to around 40 per cent of country's population;

(b) whether the Committee has proposed FCI to completely exit procurement operations in wheat and paddy producing States such as Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha under MSP scheme which covers only 6 per cent farmers; and

(c) whether the Committee found that current system of physical grain delivery is leaky and called for cash transfer to Aadhaar-based bank accounts of NFSA beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The HLC has made many recommendations on restructuring of FCI and its working. It has recommended to reduce coverage from 67 per cent of population to 40 per cent and to raise allocation to priority households from 5 kg to 7 kg per person per month under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The HLC has also recommended that FCI handover all procurement operations of wheat, paddy and rice to States that have gained sufficient experience in this regard and have created reasonable infrastructure for procurement. These States are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Punjab (in alphabetical order). FCI will accept only the surplus (after deducting the needs of the States under NFSA) from these State Governments (not millers) to be moved to deficit States. FCI should move on to help those States where farmers suffer from distress sales at prices much below MSP, and which are dominated by small holdings, like Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam etc. The HLC has recommended to gradually

introduce cash transfers in Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), starting with large cities with more than 1 million population; extending it to grain surplus States, and then giving option to deficit States to opt for cash or physical grain distribution.

Allowing State Governments for their own crop insurance schemes

*52. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to allow State Governments to come up with their own crop insurance schemes depending upon their needs and local climatic conditions, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is also considering to launch a National Crop Income Insurance Scheme, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the requirements and agro-climatic conditions specific to each region, State Governments have been given the flexibility to develop suitable products for consideration and approval of the Central Government.

(b) Yes, Sir. The National Crop Income Insurance Scheme aims at protecting farmers from both yield and price losses.

**Guidelines for withdrawal of court cases
by Central and State Governments**

*53. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many cases of partiality by ruling parties have been reported in withdrawal of cases by Central and State Governments from various courts, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any guidelines have been framed by Government or Supreme Court for withdrawal of cases by Central and State Governments from various courts, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government proposes to frame guidelines for withdrawal of cases from courts, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?