

(Figs. in lakh tonnes)

Item	Wheat	Rice (including paddy in terms of rice)	Grand Total
Stock as on 01.04.2015	172.2	238.2	410.4
Buffer Norms for 1st April	74.6	135.8	210.4

In view of the above no shortage of foodgrains is expected to meet the demand against the allotment of 53.41 million tonnes of foodgrains for TPDS/NFSA and OWS for the year 2015-16.

Implementation of recommendations of Shanta Kumar Committee Report

1464. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of the Shanta Kumar Committee on Food Corporation of India and the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, by when the percentage of persons eligible for coverage under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) would be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) Government is examining the recommendations made by the committee on Food Corporation of India. With regard to recommendations on the Public Distribution System the stand of the Government is as under-

Recommendations:

- (i) to defer implementation of NFSA in States that have not done end to end computerization; have not put the list of beneficiaries online for anyone to verify, and have not set up vigilance committees to check pilferage from Public Distribution System (PDS).
- (ii) to reduce coverage from 67 per cent of population to 40 per cent; raise allocation to priority households from 5 kg to 7 kg per person per month.
- (iii) 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.

Stand of the Government:

- (i) The States/ UTs are already required to comply with certain pre-requisites like completion of the ongoing scheme for computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System operations, which includes putting up digitized list of beneficiaries on transparency portal; putting in place grievance redressal mechanism, etc. as per requirement of NFSA, in order to start implementation of the Act.
 - (ii) The NFSA is already in force. There is no proposal for any amendment to the Act.
 - (iii) Direct transfer of cash subsidy is one of the options discussed in various fora for checking diversion of foodgrains. Its implementation, however, depends upon readiness of States/ UTs in terms of digitization and de-duplication of beneficiary data-base seeds with bank account numbers and it can be taken up on specific requests from States/UTs.
- (b) Does not arise.

Devising mechanism for e-commerce sector

1465. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set up a Committee to devise a clear mechanism for the e-commerce sector against the mega discounts offered by on-line retailers evoking protests from traditional chains, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether some big companies running off-line retail chains have approached Government seeking clarity on guidelines for this emerging sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

- (b) Yes Sir, The confederation of All India Traders (CITA) had *vide* a representation dated 26.12.2014 requested for framing of specific rules and regulations for e-commerce business.

Implementation of NFSA in North-Eastern States

1466. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Food Security Act (NFSA), which came into force two years ago in the country, has been implemented in its totality in the North-Eastern States;