

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;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government will take up this matter on priority and ask the concerned State Governments to expedite implementation of the said Act completely in the interest and for the benefit of people of that region?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) has not started in the North-Eastern States as they have not completed all the preparatory measures required for implementation of the Act.

NFSA came into force w.e.f. 5th July, 2013. The Act provided 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). However, as implementation of the Act is yet to start in 25 States/UTs, including North-Eastern States, this period has been extended upto 30.09.2015. States/UTs are regularly impressed upon to ensure early implementation of the Act through letters, meetings and conferences. While extending the period upto 30.09.2015, the States/UTs, including North-Eastern States, have been requested to complete identification of beneficiaries and other preparatory measures within the extended period so that the Act is implemented at the earliest.

Prices of cereals, vegetables and fruits

1467. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of pulses like Masur, Moong, Urad, Arhar, prices of vegetables like cabbage, tomato, brinjals, cauliflower, onion and prices of fruits like guava, coconut, orange, grapes and cashew nut as in March, 2014 and March, 2015 respectively, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is rise in prices of these commodities, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the action initiated by Government, so far, to check the price rise, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The requisite information based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Rise in the prices of food items generally are due to several factors such as adverse weather conditions, rise in transportation costs, supply constraints like