

1	2	3
Maharashtra	327840	327840
Uttarakhand	4000	4000
<b>2014-15</b>		
Assam	35000	35000
Bihar	50000	50000
Jammu and Kashmir	127346	127346

#### **Food grains lying under open sky**

184. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains lying in FCI godowns, as on 31st December, 2014; and

(b) the quantum of foodgrains lying under open sky as on 31st December, 2014?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As on 31.12.2014 the stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool was 368.56 lakh tons out of which 6.37 lakh tons of wheat was stored in CAP (Cover and Plinth) and rest under covered godowns.

#### **Distribution of excess foodgrains**

185. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had remarked that Government has failed to check starvation and malnutrition in the country in spite of having huge stocks of foodgrains in the godowns, if so, the steps taken by Government since then;

(b) whether there is a policy for distribution of overflowing stocks to starved people, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;

(c) the policy being adopted in regard to distribution of foodgrains; and

(d) whether there is a mechanism in place, particularly since the verdict of the apex court, to distribute excess foodgrains instead of allowing them to rot, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) In the Writ Petition (Civil) No.196 of 2001, Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* order dated 14.05.2011 had made

observations regarding malnutrition and starvation in poorest districts of the country and directed to distribute foodgrains to the extremely poor and vulnerable section of the society. In pursuance thereto, the Government of India allocated 44.90 lakh tons foodgrains for distribution to the additional Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the poorest districts.

(b) and (c) With the objective to provide for food and nutritional security to the people at affordable prices, Government has enacted National Food Security Act (NFSA) which provides coverage of upto 75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas, thereby covering 2/3rd population of the country. Under the Act, foodgrains are allocated to the States/Union Territories (UTs) @ 5 kg per person per month belonging to priority category and 35 kg per family per month for AAY category at very low prices of ₹ 1 per kg, ₹ 2 per kg and ₹ 3 per kg for coarse grains, wheat and rice respectively. The States/UTs who have not implemented the NFSA so far are being allocated foodgrains under the existing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) @ 35kg per family per month to the BPL (including AAY) families and @ 15-35kg per family per month to Above Poverty Line (APL) families as per March, 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India (RGI) and 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission. In addition to the above normal allocation, Government has also been allocating additional foodgrains to the States/UTs for additional BPL and APL families at subsidized prices.

(d) Other than TPDS, Government also allocates foodgrains to the States/UTs for Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) of the Government, natural calamities and festivals. As per existing Government policy, the foodgrains exceeding buffer norms are to be exported or sold in domestic market through open sale. The foodgrains stocks in the Central Pool are stored in a scientific manner and less than 0.05% of the issuable stock is damaged due to loss of moisture during storage, spillage, exposure to rains, floods etc.

#### **Digitization of ration cards**

186. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the .Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of digitization of ration cards across the country; and
- (b) whether Government would be able to complete the digitization of ration cards during the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) States/UTs are requested from time to time to complete the work of digitization of ration cards at the earliest. As per reports received from States/UTs, status of digitization of ration cards is given in the Statement (*See below*).