

to adverse weather conditions, rise in transportation costs, supply constraints and artificial shortages due to hoarding and black marketing.

For steps taken by the Government to contain the price rise of essential food items are refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ 2319, Part (b) and (c).

(c) and (d) No Madam. No such proposal is under consideration.

Shortage of edible oils

2337. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether current high market price of edible oils, particularly mustard oil, is due to its shortage; and

(b) whether this shortage is manipulated, if so, the corrective measures taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) The less and untimely rain has affected production of mustard seed thereby low production of mustard oil which caused rise in its market price.

(b) No, Sir.

Non-supply of ration on time

†2338. SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people living below poverty line do not get monthly ration of food on time, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for their not getting food ration on time; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to open new shops if people get their food ration late due to shortage of Public Distribution System shops and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operational responsibilities for allocation and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them timely delivery of the foodgrains to the ration card holders, issuance of licences to the Fair Price Shops (FPSs), supervision over and monitoring of FPS functioning, etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

Under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) effective from 05.07.2013 the foodgrains entitlements under TPDS have been made a legal right. The Act also has provisions for reforms in the TPDS to be undertaken progressively by the Central/State Government in consonance with the roles envisaged in the Act, which *inter-alia* include doorstep delivery of foodgrains, application of ICT tools, leveraging Aadhaar for unique identification, full transparency of records, preference to public institutions or public bodies etc. in FPS licensing etc. Further, under the Act, it shall be the duty of the State Government to make door step delivery of allocated foodgrains through their authorized agencies at the door step of each FPS and ensure actual delivery or supply of the foodgrains to the entitled persons as per the prescribed prices. NFSA also requires the State Government to appoint District Grievance Redressal Officer (DGRO) and the State Food Commission (SFC) for expeditious and effective redressal of grievances of the aggrieved persons including in matters relating to distribution of entitled foodgrains under TPDS.

The TPDS (Control) Order, 2015 dated 20.03.2015 notified in consonance with the NFSA, also requires the State Government to ensure that the number of ration card holders attached to an FPS are reasonable, the FPS is so located that the consumer or ration card holder does not have to face difficulty to reach the FPS and that proper coverage is ensured in hilly, desert, tribal and such other areas difficult to access. The opening of new FPSs is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government and they do so based on the local requirements.

Strict enforcement of anti-hoarding laws

2339. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism to ensure that anti-hoarding laws are strictly enforced to thwart any attempt to malign the Government; and