

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

(b) the number of officials punished/chargesheeted for slackness in the discharge of their duties in this regard during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) *Vide* Order dated 9.6.1978, the States have been delegated powers to enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The State Governments/UTs have been enabled to impose stock limits on pulses and have been advised to undertake effective measures to enforce stock limits and conduct anti hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The States conduct anti-hoarding operations. The number of officials punished/chargesheeted for slackness in the discharge of their duties in this regard is not maintained centrally.

Production of sugar

2340. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the world's largest consumer of sugar and the biggest producer of it after Brazil;

(b) if so, whether various State Governments are trying to out-do each other in providing incentives to their sugarcane growers;

(c) if so, whether India has been producing more sugar than it needs for the past five years, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government is working on a multi-year plan to boost sugar export to deal with local over supply, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Government of several States namely: Telangana, Punjab, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have been extending incentive in the form of financial assistance and/or purchase tax exemption to the cane growers in their respective States.

(c) Yes, Sir. The production of sugar in the country for the last five sugar seasons has exceeded domestic consumption. The details of production and domestic consumption of sugar in the country during the last five sugar seasons are as under:-