

Implementation of NFSA

1061. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in the country;

(b) the number of States yet to join this scheme;

(c) whether digitization and identification of beneficiaries has been done by various States, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Direct Benefit Transfer is made compulsory or subsidy will be given in cash to the beneficiaries, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) has started in 29 States/Union Territories (UTs) and foodgrains under the Act are being allocated to these States/UTs on the basis of reported identification of beneficiaries. In remaining 7 States, allocation of foodgrains under erstwhile Targeted Public Distribution System is continuing.

(c) Allocation of foodgrains under the Act is made after completion of preparatory activities by States/UTs, which inter alia includes identification of eligible households/beneficiaries and digitization of the list of beneficiaries. Based on the reported identification of beneficiaries and completion of other preparatory activities, foodgrains are being allocated for about 68 crore beneficiaries in 29 States/UTs implementing NFSA.

(d) As per the Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015, notified under NFSA, Scheme of cash transfer will be implemented only in identified areas. Identified area is defined in the Rules as a State or Union Territory or any specified area within the State or Union Territory, for which there is a written consent of the State Government for implementation of the scheme. It is therefore optional for States/ UTs to implement cash transfer.

Introduction of fortified wheat and rice in PDS

1062. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce fortified wheat and rice in the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the standards finalized for Atta and Rice for the purpose; and

(c) the time by when fortified wheat and rice are likely to be made available to people under PDS across the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The Government of India provides Rice, Wheat and Coarse grains at subsidized rates to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/ National Food Security Act (NFSA). Some of the States/UTs in turn convert wheat into Atta and distribute it to the beneficiaries. The States distributing wheat flour (Atta) under TPDS have been advised to follow the standards of fortification of wheat flour set by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The standards for fortification of wheat finalized by FSSAI can be seen on their website at <http://www.fssai.gov.in/>. The standards of fortification of rice are yet to be finalized by FSSAI.

Sale of wheat and rice through Open Market Sale Scheme

1063. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total stocks of wheat and rice with FCI as of 31 January, 2016;
- (b) whether FCI sells wheat and rice normally during September and March;
- (c) whether this has now been changed and FCI decided to sell them frequently to reduce more than double buffer stocks in the country;
- (d) how much wheat and rice FCI has been able to sell through Open Market Sale scheme in last one year, month-wise and commodity-wise; and
- (e) the quantity of wheat and rice allocated to various States during last one year and quantity lifted by the States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) As on 01.02.2016, out of total 365.74 lakh MT stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool, 123.43 lakh MT of wheat and 125.34 lakh MT of rice were available with Food Corporation of India (FCI).

(b) and (c) On the directions of Government of India, FCI sells foodgrains in the open market under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) at predetermined prices from time to time through e-auction. To fast track the process, in January, 2015 the Government formed a Committee consisting of Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Secretary, Department of Expenditure and Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs