

4. Facilitating direct marketing, contract farming, setting up of private markets, farmer consumer markets and e-markets.
5. Implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities including onion, under which losses, if any, are shared between the Central Government and the State Government concerned on 50:50 basis. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) is a Central Agency implementing MIS operations of agricultural commodities including onion.
6. Providing market information to farmers on prices and arrivals of agricultural commodities in regulated markets on AGMARKNET portal to enable the farmers to get better remunerative prices.
7. To boost exports, recently a new scheme has been launched namely "Merchandize Exports from India (MEIS)" under Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, wherein the exporters/ farmers are incentivized for export of their goods/products including onion to specified markets.
8. Government has taken a decision to procure of 15000 MT of onion by SFAC and NAFED for market intervention during lean period.

Supply of foodgrains for poor families

2324. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the actual cost incurred on making foodgrains available to the poor families;
- (b) the number of families getting this benefit and the amount spent by Central Government on this scheme;
- (c) whether distribution system is showing any disinterest among the people; and
- (d) whether any survey has been made in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The States/Union Territories (UTs) are allocated food grains at subsidized prices for distribution to identified beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS) and the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) as well as under other welfare schemes. Difference between Economic Cost and Central Issue Price (CIP) at which foodgrains are made available to States/UTs is released as food subsidy. During the year 2015-16, an expenditure of ₹ 1,34,919 crore was incurred on food subsidy.

To strengthen the efforts of the Government towards food security of the people, the Government enacted NFSA which inter alia entitles upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population to receive foodgrains at subsidised prices under TPDS. NFSA is now being implemented in 33 States/UTs where about 72.45 crore persons are covered under the Act. Foodgrains allocation under existing TPDS is continuing in remaining 3 States. With the implementation of NFSA across the country, there is no question of people showing any disinterest for TPDS.

Government gets the functioning of TPDS evaluated by different agencies from time to time. Recently, an evaluation study was conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in respect of 6 States namely Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The evaluation study revealed certain shortcomings/ deficiencies in the functioning of TPDS such as inclusion/exclusion errors and leakages/diversion of foodgrains. The report received has been sent to the concerned States.

Retail price of pulses

2325. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the retail prices of different varieties of pulses in the retail market of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata on 15 March, 2015 and 2016?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): The requisite information is given below:

Retail Prices of Pulses as on 15th March (In Rs/kg)

Variety	2015*				2016			
	Delhi	Mumbai	Kolkata	Chennai	Delhi	Mumbai	Kolkata	Chennai
Gram Dal	55	51	45	56	72	72	62	72
Tur/Arhar	89	80	82	96	142	146	125	136
Urad	86	81	80	95	146	171	120	150
Moong	101	100	115	106	103	122	100	102
Masoor	86	81	68	76	83	88	72	83

Source: State Civil Supplies Department

* Prices reported are for 16th March as 15 March was a holiday.