

crates are to be used as dunnage material. Stacks are to be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water -proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.

- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff and all senior officers.
- (ix) The principle of “First in First Out” (FIFO) is to be followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (xi) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.

Implementation of NFSA

626. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of States currently implementing the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, the district-wise details for each State;
- (b) the amount of funds allocated for implementation of this Act since 2013 and the actual expenditure incurred, year-wise details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for incomplete implementation of this Act in majority of States; and
- (d) the time-line set by Government for universal implementation of this Act and steps being taken to expedite its implementation by all States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY) (a) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is being implemented in 34 States/UTs, list of which is given in the Statement (*See* below). In Nagaland, implementation of the Act has started in two districts, namely Dimapur and Kohima and in all the districts in the remaining States/UTs.

(b) Funds are allocated in the budget of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for food subsidy to meet the difference between economic cost of foodgrains and their sales realization at Central Issue Prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). Details of food subsidy allocated and released during the years 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are as under:

(₹ in crores)

| Year | Subsidy | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Allocated | Released |
| 2013-14 | 89740.02 | 89740.0 |
| 2014-15 | 113171.16 | 113171.16 |
| 2015-16 | 134919.00 | 134919.00 |
| 2016-17* | 130334.61 | 60932.99 |

*as on 20.07.2016

Further, for providing Central assistance to States/UTs for meeting expenditure towards intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains and FPS dealers' margin under NFSA, the Food Security (Assistance to State Governments) Rules, 2015 was notified in August, 2015 and for the first time budget allocation was made in 2015-16. The amount of ₹ 279.01 lakh provided in Revised Estimates (2015-16) was fully released. During the current year, an allocation of ₹ 250000 lakh has been made, out of which ₹ 86341.63 lakh has been released. Also, for assistance to States/UTs for non-building assets for State Food Commission, allocation of ₹ 20000/-, ₹ 1 crore and ₹ 2 crore were made in the BE for years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively, but no expenditure was incurred. The provision for this purpose in BE (2016-17) is ₹ 1 crore.

(c) and (d) Under NFSA, main responsibility for implementation, which *inter-alia* includes identification of eligible households, issuing ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrain entitlements to eligible households through Fair Price Shops (FPS), setting up effective grievance redressal mechanism, necessary strengthening of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), rests with the States/UTs.

Implementation of the Act is reviewed on regular basis through meetings with States/UTs at various levels. As a result of regular review, implementation of the Act has started in all the States/UTs except Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Recently, a meeting of Food Ministers and Food Secretaries of States/UTs was held on 21.05.2016 at New Delhi, to review implementation of NFSA and progress in end-to-end computerization, wherein Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu were requested to ensure implementation of NFSA at the earliest.

Statement

List of States/UTs implementing NFSA

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/UT |
|---------|----------------------|
| 1. | Haryana |

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/UT |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| 2. | Rajasthan |
| 3. | Delhi |
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh |
| 5. | Punjab |
| 6. | Karnataka |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh |
| 8. | Maharashtra |
| 9. | Chandigarh |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh |
| 11. | Bihar |
| 12. | West Bengal |
| 13. | Lakshadweep |
| 14. | Tripura |
| 15. | Puducherry |
| 16. | Uttarakhand |
| 17. | Jharkhand |
| 18. | Telangana |
| 19. | Daman and Diu |
| 20. | Odisha |
| 21. | Assam |
| 22. | Goa |
| 23. | Andhra Pradesh |
| 24. | Sikkim |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh |
| 26. | Meghalaya |
| 27. | Jammu and Kashmir |
| 28. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands |
| 29. | Mizoram |
| 30. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli |
| 31. | Gujarat |

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/UT |
|---------|----------------------|
| 32. | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 33. | Manipur |
| 34. | Nagaland |

Hallmarking of gold and silver items

627. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps for mandatory hallmarking of gold and silver items, if so. the details thereof;

(b) to what extent it will ensure purity of the metal items;

(c) whether Government has set up recognized Hallmarking Centres all over the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 has enabling provisions for making hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory by the Central Government.

(b) The objective of the hallmarking scheme is to ensure purity of precious metal articles.

(c) and (d) Sir, no hallmarking centre has been set up by Central Government or by Bureau of Indian Standards. Hallmarking Centres are generally set up by private entrepreneurs. As on 30th June 2016 there are 376 BIS recognized hallmarking centres across the country, State-wise details of which are given in the Statement.

Statement

The State-wise distribution of the BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres as on 30th June 2016

| Sl. No. | Name of State/UT | No. of Assaying and Hallmarking Centres |
|---------|------------------|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 20 |
| 2. | Assam | 2 |
| 3. | Bihar | 3 |
| 4. | Chandigarh | 3 |