

Scheme to supply foodgrains completely free-of-cost

1409. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken a decision to make available foodgrains completely free-of-cost to the country's poorest of the poor; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), which has come into effect from 5.7.2013, two-third of the population is entitled to receive highly subsidized foodgrains @ ₹ 3/2/1 per kg for rice/wheat/coarsegrains. Eligible households under the Act are entitled to receive foodgrains @ 5 kg per person per month for the priority category and 35 kg per household per month for AAY households.

Demand by States for increasing quota of pulses

1410. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any request from State Governments to increase their quota of Arhar and Urad dal in order to control the price rise of these two pulses;
- (b) if so, the names of States along with their demands;
- (c) whether Government has issued order to stop export of these two pulses at present and at the same time encourage import of more Arhar and Urad dal to check further rise in their prices, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps Government plans to take against black marketeers and hoarders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) There is no specific quota of States for pulses from the buffer stock. Allocation to States/UTs is based on factors including specific demand from States. The details of the demand from States is given in the Statement (*See* below).

- (c) At present, there is a ban on export of all pulses except for Kabuli chana and up to 10,000 MTs in organic pulses and lentils. Imports of pulses are allowed at zero duty.