

**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.

(d) The steps include strict enforcement of the Essential Commodities (EC) Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential (PBMMSE) Act, 1980; strict vigilance by the Government to prevent importers from mis-using the facilities of Customs Bonded Warehouse facility; setting up of a Group of Officers for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization; extension of stock limit on pulses, etc.

***Statement***

*Details of demand of pulses received from States/UTs*

(Figures in MT)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Tur		Urad
		Total	Monthly	Total
1.	Chhattisgarh	5000		
2.	Maharashtra	28038	7000	
3.	Andhra Pradesh		5000	2000
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		340	340
5.	Karnataka	5000		
6.	Telangana#	15000		
7.	Gujarat		6500	
8.	Haryana			1000
9.	Tamil Nadu	10000		5000
10.	Bihar		16500	
11.	Rajasthan	1000		1000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5000		
13.	Sikkim			80
14.	Himachal Pradesh			200
15.	Nagaland	5000		

#: Additional demand of 7746 MT of Tur for drought affected districts.