

Distributing foodgrains through PDS in drought affected areas

1411. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of the Supreme Court order directing drought affected States to provide foodgrains at PDS outlets; and

(b) whether drought affected States have issued orders for food distribution through PDS outlets, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) In the Writ Petition(C) No. 857 of 2015 filed by Swaraj Abhiyan against the Union of India & Ors., Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 13.05.2016 has directed to provide foodgrains to all households in the drought affected States in terms of National Food Security Act (NFSA) and that no household in a drought affected area shall be denied foodgrains as required under the Act only because the household does not have a ration card.

Under the NFSA, responsibilities for identification of beneficiaries and distribution of foodgrains to the eligible beneficiaries lie with the concerned State Government. Accordingly, above directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court were communicated to the State Governments for compliance. Based on the requests received from the States for additional allocation of foodgrains for drought relief and as per the demand made by the States, Government of India has allocated a total quantity of 30.89 lakh tons of foodgrains during 2015-16 and 2016-17 to the States for drought relief.

Implementation of NFSA

1412. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 51 per cent of eligible beneficiaries have been identified under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), if so, by when the identification process will be completed;

(b) whether CAG report on Preparedness for Implementation of NFSA states that there is inadequate number of rakes for transporting foodgrains, inadequate number of godowns and some of them are unfit for usage, if so, the measures Government has taken to improve this situation, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Central Government, has a mechanism in place to ensure that States properly implement the NFSA, the details thereof?