

**Targeted PDS for SCs and STs**

4079. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a targeted PDS scheme for people belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) category in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the amount of funding thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), which came into force w.e.f. 5th July, 2013 seeks to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. NFSA provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population at the all India level thus covering about two-third of the population, for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Corresponding to this, State/UT-wise coverage was determined by the then Planning Commission. With the coverage determination for each State/UT, the eligible households identified by State Governments/UT Administrations are entitled to receive subsidized foodgrains as per their entitlements prescribed in the Act. Under the Act, foodgrains are allocated @ 5kg. per person per month for priority households and @ 35kg. per family per month for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households at highly subsidized prices of ₹ 1/-, ₹ 2/- and ₹ 3/- per kg for coarse grains, wheat and rice respectively.

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS and supervision over and monitoring and functioning of fair price shops etc. rest with the State/UT Governments.

As of 1st November, 2016 all the 36 States/UTs have implemented NFSA and are being allocated foodgrains as per their entitlement under NFSA.