

(c) if not, the current foodgrains production and storage capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir. On the basis of peak stock requirement during procurement season, the overall storage capacity required in the country is about 600 Lakh MT. Against this, the total capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies for storage of foodgrains as on 31.01.2017 was 775.74 lakh MT. Thus, on the overall, there is sufficient capacity for storage of foodgrains in the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Enlisting of applicants in west bengal for providing subsidised rice

1187. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only a small percentage of the applicants are enlisted to avail 2 per kg. rice in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what were the total number of applicants, and how many of them have been enlisted; and

(c) the reasons for disallowing so many applicants from availing the facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the percentage coverage determined for West Bengal for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains is 74.47% of rural and 47.55% of urban population, which at 2011 census population works out to be 601.84 lakh persons. Within this coverage, it is the responsibility of the State Government, as per the Act, to identify AAY households to the extent specified by the Central Government, in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the Scheme and remaining households as priority households as per the criteria evolved by the State Government. Implementation of the Act in West Bengal has started w.e.f. June, 2015 and based on identification of beneficiaries reported by the State Government, foodgrains as per the provisions of the Act is being allocated to West Bengal for the entire coverage of 601.84 lakh persons.

Coverage of beneficiaries under NFSA

1188. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria to include States under coverage of beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA);

- (b) which States are covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government had received request from Government of Rajasthan for reassessment of percentage of coverage under NFSA; and
- (d) if so, the action taken thereon 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) Before implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), States/UTs were required to complete necessary preparatory activities which *inter alia* included identification of eligible households, placing their list on the Public Distribution System portal, setting up of grievance redressal mechanism as per provisions of the Act and necessary strengthening of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), including arrangement for delivery of foodgrains up to door-steps of fair price shops and Computerization of TPDS operations.

(b) NFSA is now being implemented in all the States/UTs and foodgrains as per provisions of the Act is being allocated to them.

(c) and (d) Government of Rajasthan had requested to re-consider and re-calculate the percentage of population to be covered for Rajasthan. However, in view of a formula based approach applied uniformly to all States/Union Territories for determining coverage under NFSA, it was not found feasible to agree to this request and the same was conveyed to the State Government.

Buffer stock of pulses

1189. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is looking to achieve its buffer stock target of 2 million tonnes of pulses by June next year;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the country has imported nearly six million tonnes pulses last fiscal year to meet the domestic demand; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government is to ensure the domestic availability of 24-25 million tonnes of pulses, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Government is creating a dynamic buffer of upto 2 million tonnes of pulses. As on 6.3.2017, around 14.25 lakh tonnes of pulses has been procured/contracted for imports for the buffer.

- (b) During 2015-16, around 5.88 million tonnes pulses were imported.