

- (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.

(c) The measures taken by the Government to improve the domestic availability, *inter alia*, include zero import duty on pulses, export ban on pulses with certain exemptions, regular enhancement of MSP for pulses, and implementation on National Food Security Mission (NFSM).

Fixing of MRP on packaged commodities by institutional consumers

1190. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Legal Metrology Act, 2009 envisages "institutional consumer", which encompasses in its ambit institutional consumer *inter alia* transportation, airways, hotels, multiplexes, hospitals, railways or any other service institutions who buy packaged commodities directly from manufacturer for use by the institute; and

(b) whether the aforesaid institutional consumers, including multiplexes, hotels, restaurants are entitled to affix MRP applicable for institutional consumers on mineral water, cold drinks, etc., for sale in their locations, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, the term "institutional consumers" is defined under rule 2(bc) of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, which by packaged commodities directly from the manufacturer or from an importer or from wholesale dealer for use by that institution, as follows:—

‘2(bc) “institutional consumer” means the institution who hires or avails of the facilities or services in connection with transport, hotel, hospital or other organization which by packaged commodities directly from the manufacturer or from in importer or from wholesale dealer for use by that institution, and the package shall have declaration ‘not for retail sale’;’

(b) From the above definition it is evident that the institutional consumer are not allowed to affix MRP and sell these packaged commodities further to the consumers in retail. These packaged commodities can only be used by that institution, as a declaration that ‘not for retail sale’ has to be made on each package.

Import of wheat

†1191. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat cultivators are facing huge losses due to cheap wheat import;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.