

(b) whether Government has received any representation from any State to continue the subsidy being given on sugar;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter; and

(d) the stand of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 is now being universally implemented in the entire country. There is no identified category of BPL under the NFSA, 2013. However, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries are clearly identified. The Government has reviewed the sugar subsidy scheme and has decided to continue it only for AAY families. The Central Government will continue to reimburse a fixed subsidy of ₹ 18.50 per kg. @ 1 kg. per month per AAY family to participating States/UTs. The States/UTs are also allowed either to absorb the additional cost on account of handling, transportation and dealer's commission or pass it on to the consumer by adding it to the Retail Issue Price (RIP) of ₹ 13.50 per kg. under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(b) to (d) The State Governments/UT administrations of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar Island have requested for continuation of earlier sugar subsidy scheme. The issue of continuance of the same has been considered by the Central Government and it has been decided to continue the sugar subsidy scheme with coverage to AAY families only.

#### **Supply of subsidized foodgrains through ration shops**

1521. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided not to hike prices of foodgrains sold under the Food Law in various ration shops for one more year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government supplies highly subsidised foodgrains at 1-3/kg. to over 81 crore people in the country costing the exchequer about 1.4 lakh crore annually, 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) Yes, Sir. The highly subsidized prices of foodgrains under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) *i.e.* ₹ 1/2/3 per kg. for coarsegrains/wheat/rice have been continued upto June, 2018.

Currently, about 80.55 crore persons are covered under NFSA for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains. The budget allocation for food subsidy in 2017-18 is ₹ 1,45,138.60 crore.

#### **Distribution of quality foodgrains under PDS**

†1522. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of procedure followed by the FSSAI to test foodgrains distributed under PDS along with the number of times foodgrains distributed under PDS has been tested by FSSAI, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has issued directions to distribute quality foodgrains under PDS, if so, the mechanism put in place to monitor the same, the details thereof; and

(c) whether complaints have been received with regard to distribution of rotten and substandard foodgrains under the PDS, if so, the details with the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of all the food products are undertaken by the officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check that they comply with the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Rules and Regulation made thereunder. In cases where food samples are found to be non-conforming, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter-IX of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The implementation and enforcement of norms under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulation made thereunder primarily rests with the States/UTs Government.

No separate enforcement data regarding samples taken from foodgrains distributed under PDS by Food Safety Authorities of the States/UTs is maintained centrally by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). However, based on information made available by the States/UTs, details of all food samples received, analyzed, found non-conforming to the norms and action taken under provision of FSS Act, 2006 during the year 2016-17 is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Yes, Sir. Government has issued following instructions to State Governments/ Union Territories and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS).

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.