

**Implementation of NFSA in States**

2156. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Food Security Act (NFSA) has not been implemented by several States in its true letter and spirit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken any action to see that all the key requirements of provisions are implemented by the States in view of recent remarks of the Supreme Court?

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) is being implemented in all the States/UTs and 80.72 crore persons are covered for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains as per provisions of the Act. For checking leakages and diversion in distribution of foodgrains as well as better targeting of food subsidy, the Government is implementing a scheme of 'End to end Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System Operations'.

In the ongoing Writ Petition (Civil) No.857 filed by Swaraj Abhiyan versus Union of India & Others, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has stressed on the need for better implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), and has given certain directions which *inter-alia* include time bound implementation of provisions of NFSA by the State Governments, pertaining to appointment/ designation of District Grievance Redressal Officer (DGRO), constitution of State Food Commission (SFC), mechanism for Social Audit and functioning of Vigilance Committees. As responsibility under the Act to implement the directions of the Hon'ble Court lies with States/UTs, these directions were conveyed to them for compliance and followed up.

**Labour charges in FCI**

2157. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been found that at various depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) labourers were handling 998 to 1776 bags per day, which was unusually high against all prescribed norms, indicating proxy labourers being paid by Government agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether payment of ₹230 crore paid by the FCI towards labour charges were quite unusual labour cost;

(d) whether exorbitant incentives were being paid to these labourers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (e) Some instances of high handling of bags by labourers during rake loading, unloading and procurement operations process were noticed in FCI. Accordingly, the matter was investigated and disciplinary action has been taken against concerned erring officials.

Further, payment of high incentives was also noticed in some of the FCI depots. This was due to incentives norms and was taking place especially during loading and unloading of rakes when the volume of operation increases multifold. Consequently labourers have had to handle more bags than the norm prevalent at that time. The rationalization of labour in pursuant to exemption notification dated 06.07.2016 and revision of incentives norms has considerably reduced incidence of high incentives.

Further, preventive measures like installation of CCTV cameras, biometric attendance has been put in place to avoid possible use of any proxy labour.

The total payment towards labour charges made by FCI during last three years was as under:

(₹ in crore)		
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
4635.03	4052.32	3664.18

#### Direct transfer of subsidy into bank accounts

2158. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States in which the subsidy received under the Public Distribution System is being transferred directly into the bank accounts of consumers;