

Distribution System (TPDS) in terms of National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, Annapurna Scheme and Allocation of foodgrains under Welfare Institutions and Hostels Scheme.

NFSA provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains under TPDS, thus covering about two-thirds of the population of the country for receiving foodgrains @ Rs 1/2/3 per kg for nutri-cereals/wheat/rice respectively. Identification of beneficiaries under the Act is under two categories- households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH), within the coverage determined for the State/UT. While Priority Households are entitled to receive 5 kg per person per month, AAY households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, continue to receive 35 Kg of foodgrains per household per month. At present, the Act is being implemented in all the States/UTs covering about 80 crore persons to get highly subsidized foodgrains. During the year 2018-19, the Government allocated a quantity of 612.18 lakh MT of foodgrains to the States/UTs under NFSA, Other Welfare Schemes and allocations due to natural calamities and festivals.

Further, Government of India has issued advisories to all States/UTs to identify and cover the weakest sections of the society under PDS and launch special drives to issue ration cards to them. Advisories have been issued to all State/UTs that no beneficiary/household shall be deleted from the list of eligible beneficiaries/households only on the grounds of not possessing Aadhaar and shall also not be denied subsidized foodgrains or cash transfer of food subsidy under NFSA due to non-availability of Aadhaar or failure of biometric authentication.

Distribution of nutritious rice under PDS

3091. 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 would roll out a pilot project in 15 districts to fortify rice with iron, folic acid and vitamins A and B 12 in a bid to reduce nutrition deficiencies among the beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that it would be available in ration shops from November, 2019?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) Government of India has approved the Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on "Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution System" on 14.02.2019- rice to be fortified with Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B-12. The Pilot Scheme has been approved for a period of three year beginning 2019-20. The Pilot Scheme will focus on 15 districts preferably 1 district per State during the initial phase of implementation.

(c) The operational responsibilities for implementation of the Pilot Scheme lie with the States/UTs. States/UTs have been requested to operationalize the blending of fortified rice and its distribution through PDS as early as possible. So far only nine State Governments *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Tamil Nadu have consented and identified their respective districts for implementation of the Pilot Scheme.

Allocation of foodgrains to Tamil Nadu

3092. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any demand has been made by States, including the State of Tamil Nadu, to allocate more foodgrains, including rice from Central quota;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has acceded to such demand; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (d) Allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is made on the basis of identification of beneficiaries reported by the States/ Union Territories (UTs) within the State/UT-wise coverage of population determined by erstwhile Planning Commission, and foodgrains entitlement prescribed under the Act *i.e.* 35 kg per household per month for households covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and 5 kg per person per month for Priority households. As and when requests are received from States/UTs for revision of foodgrains allocation under the Act, within their NFSA entitlement, the same are examined and revised allocation orders are issued as per the extant policy.