

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.

As regards Tamil Nadu, on the basis of AAY and priority households identified and reported by the Government of Tamil Nadu, within the coverage determined for the State, monthly allocation of 193.22 thousand tons of rice and 8.89 thousand tons of wheat is being made to the State Government. In addition, 99.77 thousand tons of rice and 4.59 thousand tons of wheat is also being allocated to the State Government as 'tide over' allocation to protect their average annual offtake under erstwhile Targeted Public Distribution System. The allocation order in respect of Tamil Nadu was last revised from April, 2017. No subsequent request has been received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for revision in allocation of foodgrains under NFSA.

#### **Setting up of laboratories by FCI**

3093. R. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new laboratories, if any, that have been established by the Food Corporation of India for effective monitoring of quality of foodgrains in the past few years;

(b) the efforts that have been made by the Ministry in the past five years for upgrading the existing laboratories with latest equipments; and

(c) the number of new jobs, if any, that have been created in these laboratories by the quality wing of the Food Corporation of India in the past five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) To ensure effective monitoring of Quality of foodgrains Food Corporation of India (FCI) is having laboratories at the Headquarters, Zonal, Regional and District level. Each of the FCI storage depots are also attached with one laboratory for analysis of foodgrain. The number of new laboratories that have been established by the FCI during the last four years (2015-16 to 2018-19) are as under.

Financial Year	No of Depot Labs
2015-16	07
2016-17	02
2017-18	02
2018-19	06