

(c) whether rations are available round the year for the consumers in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) Details of Total number of ration cards in the country during the last five years are as under:—

| Year | Total Number of Ration Cards |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 2014-15 | 22.09 crore |
| 2015-16 | 23.61 crore |
| 2016-17 | 23.20 crore |
| 2017-18 | 23.26 crore |
| 2018-19 | 23.24 crore |

(b) and (c) The National Food Security Act, 2013, (NFSA) provides for coverage of up to 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains (*i.e.* rice, wheat and coarse grains) at highly subsidized rates of ₹3/2/1 per kg respectively. All the States/UTs have adopted NFSA under which eligible beneficiaries comprises of Priority Households (PHH) are entitled to receive the foodgrains of 5 kg. per persons per month and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families are entitled to receive the foodgrains of 35 kg. per family per month throughout the year.

Action on complaints regarding TPDS

†852. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the complaints regarding Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) have been steadily increasing;

(b) if so, the response of Government in this regard; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against the culprits on the basis of complaints received and if so, the details thereof during last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (c) There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including leakage/diversion of foodgrains, foodgrains not

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

reaching the intended beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to ineligible persons, etc. in some States/regions in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rest with the State/UT Governments concerned. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they are sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. State/UT-wise number of such complaints received during the last three years is given in Statement (*See below*).

An offence committed in violation of the provisions of TPDS (C) Order, 2015 is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, the Order empowers State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders.

Statement

Complaints on TPDS received in the department from individuals, organisation and through media reports etc. from 2016 to 2018

| Sl. No. | State/UT | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------|-------------------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 5 | 10 | 6 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | - | - | 1 |
| 3. | Assam | 32 | 17 | 7 |
| 4. | Bihar | 81 | 169 | 135 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| 6. | Delhi | 91 | 98 | 76 |
| 7. | Goa | 1 | 2 | - |
| 8. | Gujarat | 12 | 9 | 8 |
| 9. | Haryana | 34 | 47 | 35 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | 29 | 35 | 33 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|----------------------------|------|------|-----|
| 13. | Karnataka | 22 | 28 | 15 |
| 14. | Kerala | 22 | 13 | 11 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 24 | 21 | 24 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 62 | 77 | 34 |
| 17. | Manipur | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| 18. | Meghalaya | 9 | - | - |
| 19. | Mizoram | - | 2 | - |
| 20. | Nagaland | 2 | 2 | - |
| 21. | Odisha | 43 | 22 | 16 |
| 22. | Punjab | 7 | 5 | 22 |
| 23. | Rajasthan | 59 | 82 | 38 |
| 24. | Sikkim | - | - | - |
| 25. | Tamil Nadu | 33 | 31 | 27 |
| 26. | Telangana | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| 27. | Tripura | 1 | 1 | - |
| 28. | Uttarakhand | 21 | 22 | 15 |
| 29. | Uttar Pradesh | 461 | 445 | 369 |
| 30. | West Bengal | 29 | 49 | 43 |
| 31. | Andaman and Nicobar Island | 1 | - | 1 |
| 32. | Chandigarh | 2 | - | 2 |
| 33. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 1 | - | - |
| 34. | Daman and Diu | - | - | - |
| 35. | Lakshadweep | - | - | 1 |
| 36. | Puducherry | - | 1 | 2 |
| TOTAL | | 1106 | 1213 | 941 |

Availability of PDS ration to migrant labourers

853. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: