

(e) and (f) With a view to target maximum number of migrant NFSA beneficiaries under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan, the Department is coordinating with Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, etc. for focused awareness generation and publicity of the program through their channels/ mechanism of out-reach to such persons. Further, Department has also advised States/ UTs to collaborate with respective labour departments, industrial associations, civil societies, NGOs, etc. for awareness generation and targeting of migrant beneficiaries.

Besides, the Department has also requested all States/UTs to enable a new 14445 toll-free number under ONORC operations.

#### **Food security during COVID-19 pandemic**

1498. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the changes in and the current state of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) schemes in 2020;

(b) whether the Ministry has increased the scope of the schemes to tackle increasing food insecurity during the pandemic; and

(c) the manner in which the Ministry is ensuring security for the farmers with fall in demand, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) Under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), eligible beneficiaries are covered under two categories-(i) Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and (ii) Priority Households (PHH) to receive subsidized foodgrains Rice, Wheat and Coarse-grains at the Central Issue Prices of ₹ 3/-, ₹2/- and ₹ 1/- per kg. for respectively as before. The AAY and PHH ration card holders are entitled to receive foodgrains @ 35 Kg. per household per month and @ 5kg. per person per month respectively.

In pursuance of the pro-poor announcement made under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package as part of the Economic Response to COVID-19, Government of India had launched Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for additional allocation of food-grains from the Central Pool @ 5 kg per person per month free-of-

cost for all the beneficiaries covered under NFSA including those covered under DBT for a period of 3 months *i.e.* April-June, 2020. Accordingly, about 121 (Lakh Metric Tonnes) LMT of foodgrain was allotted to more than 80 Crore beneficiaries. The above PMGKAY scheme has been extended for a further period of 5 months *i.e.* July-November, 2020 @ 5 kg per person per month free-of-cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the NFSA. Accordingly, about 201 LMT of foodgrains have been allotted for under the phase-II of the scheme.

Further, under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package (ANBP), Government has made allocation of free foodgrain (Rice/Wheat) for migrants/stranded migrant persons and others who are neither covered under NFSA nor any State PDS scheme, for distribution @ 5 kg per person per month for two months *i.e.* May and June, 2020 to benefit approximately 8 crore (liberally estimated) migrants/ stranded migrants' population in the country.

(c) The pro-active interventions by the Ministry through wide publicity of Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations, making farmers aware of the quality specification and purchase system, establishment of large number of temporary purchase centers, in addition to the existing Mandis and depots/godowns, have facilitated record procurement of Rabi produce by the Government agencies. Further, Government has ensured regular transfer of financial benefits under Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme to farmers during COVID-19 pandemic lock down period. Under this Scheme, income support of ₹ 6000/- per year is transferred in three 4-monthly installments of ₹ 2000/- each directly into the bank accounts of the eligible beneficiary farmers' families. So far, a total amount of ₹ 41,133.8012 crore has been transferred to the PM-KISAN beneficiary farmers in different installments.

#### **Food security challenges faced by Government during lockdown**

1499. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the measures introduced by the Ministry to address the food security and nutritional challenges during the lockdown period, the details thereof; and

(b) the challenges faced by Government in ensuring food security during lockdown, details thereof?