

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1812

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014

QUOTA REDUCTION UNDER NFSA

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

(a) whether the National Food Security Act (NFSA) has been rolled out only in a few States and if so, the details thereof indicating the names of States where it has been fully or partially implemented;

(b) whether there are reports that the number of beneficiaries and their entitlements have been reduced in some States where NFSA has been implemented and if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government provides foodgrains and other items in proportion to the beneficiaries identified and if so, the details thereof and if not, the manner in which States meet this deficit indicating the number of beneficiaries identified and foodgrains allocated during the current year, State-wise; and

(d) whether some States including Kerala have requested to make the application of NFSA universal and also to make allocation in accordance with it and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

(a): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) has deemed to have come into force on 05.07.2013. It inter alia provides for a period not exceeding 365 days to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for identification of eligible households for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

Based on the reported identification of beneficiaries for coverage under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), allocation of foodgrains to 11 States/UTs has started under the Act. Out of these, in 6 States, namely Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan, complete identification as per coverage under the Act has been reported and in the remaining 5 States/UTs, namely Bihar, NCT of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chandigarh, identification is partial.

(b): Coverage under existing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is based on poverty estimates for 1993-94 and population projections as on 1st March, 2000. Accordingly, about 6.5 crore households are covered under BPL category (including Antyodaya Anna Yojana) and the remaining about 11.5 crore household under APL category. Allocation of foodgrains for APL households is however subject to availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Under NFSA, coverage under TPDS has been delinked from poverty estimates and the Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidised foodgrains under TPDS at the all India level, corresponding to which State-wise coverage has been determined by the Planning Commission. Approximately 81.35 crore persons or about 16.57 crore households will be entitled to receive subsidised foodgrains under NFSA. State-wise coverage of population and households under NFSA is substantially more than the coverage under BPL category under existing TPDS in all the States/UTs where implementation of NFSA has started.

As per the State-wise coverage and foodgrains entitlements prescribed in the Act, allocation of foodgrains to 18 States/UTs is estimated to be lower than what they receive under existing TPDS. To address this, it is provided in the Act that if annual allocation of foodgrains to any State under the Act is less than the average annual offtake for last three years under normal TPDS, the same shall be protected.

(c): In 11 States/UTs, which have started implementation of the Act, foodgrains have been allocated at prices specified in the Schedule – I of the Act for the number of beneficiaries identified and reported by them. In case of their allocation being less than the average offtake for last three years under normal TPDS, additional 'Tide Over' allocation has been made at Rs. 8.30 and Rs. 6.10 per kg for rice and wheat respectively to protect their average offtake. State-wise details are at Annexure.

(d): Suggestions were received from some States/UTs including Kerala for universal coverage under NFSA. The coverage and entitlements prescribed in the Act are keeping in view the recent trends in production and procurement of foodgrains.