

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3726

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014

FOOD SECURITY

Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Karunakaran Shri P.;Khan Shri Md. Badariddoza;Kumar Shri Shailesh (Bulo Mandal);Lokhande Shri Sadashiv Kisan;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Thomas Prof. Kuruppassery Varkey;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the requirement of foodgrains and the expenditure likely to be incurred on implementation of NFSA and if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the manner in which it is proposed to be met;
- (b) whether the Government has received any representation from the States regarding the problems faced by them in the implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA) including storage, distribution etc. and if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to expand the coverage of NFSA or make it universal and if so, the details thereof indicating the number of persons identified and foodgrains provided during the last one year, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any steps to improve offtake from the Fair Price Shops for effective implementation of NFSA particularly in rural areas and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Based on the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), the requirement of foodgrains for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other food based welfare schemes is estimated at 61.44 million tons. Annual food subsidy implication of implementation of the Act at 2014-15 costs is estimated to be around Rs. 1,31,086 crore against which, Rs. 1,10,500 crore has been provided in the current year budget.

(b): From time to time, State Governments have raised various issues relating to implementation of the Act during conferences, meetings and through letters, which inter alia included the issues of assistance to improve storage capacity at various levels in the State, funds for doorstep delivery of foodgrains etc. All such issues are examined on merit and suitable action taken wherever required.

(c): There is no proposal to expand the coverage under TPDS under NFSA or to make it universal. So far, foodgrains under the Act has been allocated to 11 States/Union Territories (UTs) based on the preparedness and identification of beneficiaries reported by them. State-wise details are at Annexure.

(d): In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified by the Government, which mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. PDS (Control) Order, 2001 also empowers State/UT Governments to ensure that the ration card holder is not denied the supply of TPDS commodities as per entitlement by the FPS owner under TPDS.

Further, strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding conferences wherein State /UT Governments are requested for continuous review of lists of beneficiaries, improving the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at FPSs, greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc.