

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:20
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY BILL
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

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

- (a) the current status of the proposed National Food Security Bill alongwith the aims and objectives of the same;
- (b) whether the Government has received inputs from the States and other stake holders in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a),(b)&(c): As announced by Her Excellency, the President of India, in her address to the joint session of Parliament on 04.06.2009, the Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act which envisages, among other things, that every Below Poverty Line (BPL) family in the country shall be entitled to 25 kg of wheat or rice per month @ Rs.3/- per kg. The law is also proposed to be used to bring about systemic reforms in the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Consultations have been held with, and inputs received from, the states and other stakeholders, based on which the various issues have been placed before an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted for the purpose. Based on the decisions taken / directions given by the EGoM so far, a draft National Food Security Bill is being prepared which will be placed before the EGoM.