

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:720

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010

FOOD SECURITY

Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to launch a scheme to provide food security to all the citizens and give it a legal status;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the proposed scheme;
- (c) whether the views of the experts and other stake holders have been ascertained and incorporated in formulation of the said scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)to(d): 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 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, a draft National Food Security Bill is being prepared which will be placed before the EGoM.