

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:50
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009
FOOD SECURITY ACT
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal;Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act to assure food security to all;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made therein;
- (c) the details of the allocation of food grains proposed to be made for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families under the said scheme alongwith the subsidy component thereof;
- (d) the likely impact of the proposed scheme on the present food based welfare schemes; and
- (e) the time-frame fixed for implementation of the said scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e):A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.50 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 07.07.2009 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e): As announced in President's address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009, Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act. In order to frame the proposed law, Government has initiated necessary action. Examination of different aspects of the proposed law in consultation with State governments, various Central Ministries, experts and other stake holders is presently in progress.

Under the proposed law, every BPL family is to be entitled to receive 25 kg of food grains per month. Details of eligible BPL families to be covered, methodology for their identification, issue of targeted identification cards to them, etc. are being worked out.

Food subsidy provided by Government under TPDS is the difference between economic cost of food grains to FCI and the central issue prices charged from ration card holders. The economic cost depends upon Minimum Support Prices, local taxes, other incidentals, cost of storage & transportation. The total subsidy payable would also depend upon the scale of issue and numbers of beneficiaries at any point of time.

The Government implements various other welfare schemes such as Midday Meal Scheme by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Annapurna Scheme by the Ministry of Rural Development and others. While formulating the proposed food security law, interests of the targeted beneficiaries of these schemes will be kept in view.