

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:17

ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010

FOOD SECURITY

Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad;Yadav Shri Dinesh Chandra

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

- (a) the present status and salient features of the proposed National Food Security Bill;
- (b) the reasons for the delay in finalizing the said Bill alongwith the time by which it is likely to be finalised;
- (c) whether suggestions/proposals have been received from various quarters regarding food security in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to ensure food security in the country?

**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. 17 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 09.11.2010 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (e) : As announced by the President in her address to the joint session of Parliament on 4-6-2009, the Government is committed to enact a National Food Security Act (NFSA) which, inter alia, envisages entitling every family below poverty line to a certain quantity of food grains each month at subsidized prices. A concept note on the proposed legislation was circulated and consultations have been held with State Governments, Central Ministries and other stakeholders regarding families to be covered, scale of distribution, food security allowance, BPL survey etc. The National Advisory Council (NAC) has since made certain recommendations on 23.10.2010 on the proposed National Food Security legislation, regarding coverage and legal entitlements to subsidised foodgrains. The recommendations of NAC and other stakeholders will be considered by the an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted to consider various issues regarding the proposed law on food security. Based on directions of EGoM, the draft bill would be prepared and further action taken.

The Department is allocating foodgrains at highly subsidized prices under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes to ensure food security to the most vulnerable sections of the society. At present under TPDS, Government makes allocation of foodgrains to 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line families, including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana families @ 35 kg. per family per month. Allocation of foodgrains at subsidized rates is also made for 11.52 crore Above Poverty Line families ranging between 15 kg. and 35 kg. per family per month in different States/UTs. Further, this Department has been making additional allocation of foodgrains depending upon availability of stocks and the requirement/requests received from States/UTs. During 2010-11 the Department has allocated a total quantity of 579.28 lakh tones of foodgrains under TPDS and other schemes.