

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:268  
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011  
NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY SCHEME  
Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has since forwarded the draft Bill on National Food Security to the States for eliciting their views;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Governments have been requested to send their views within a specific time limit in view of the requirement of the said law;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the foodgrains requirement under the proposed scheme has been estimated; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to meet the said requirement?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MIISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 268 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 15.03.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) to (f): President of India, in her address to the joint session of Parliament on 4-6-2009, announced that the Government proposes to enact a new law the National Food Security Act that will provide a statutory basis for a framework which assures food security for all and every family below the poverty line in rural as well as urban areas will be entitled, by law, to a certain quantity of rice or wheat per month at subsidized prices. This legislation will also be used to bring about broader systemic reform in the public distribution system.

Government is committed to enact this important legislation after due consultation and consideration. A Concept Note on the proposed legislation was circulated on 05.06.2009 and 10.06.2009 to all State / Union Territory Governments and concerned Central Ministries. The Department has also held initial consultations with the State Food Secretaries, representatives of various Central Ministries, Planning Commission, experts and other stakeholders. An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been constituted to examine various issues including the proposed law on food security.

The National Advisory Council (NAC) is also deliberating on all aspects of the proposed law on food security. NAC has prepared a Framework Note on the Draft National Food Security Bill (NFSB) and placed the same in the public domain and sought comments by 7th March, 2011. Department of Food & Public Distribution has also sought comments from the concerned Ministries/Departments and State Governments/UT Administrations on the Framework Note.

All aspects of the proposed legislation, including its coverage, entitlement, etc., are presently under consideration of the Government. On the basis of consultation with stakeholders, further action would be taken to finalize the proposed legislation, including the foodgrains requirement.