

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2490
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011
COMMITTEES ON FOOD SECURITY ACT
Mandal Shri Mangani Lal;Ramshankar Dr. ;Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any draft of the proposed Food Security Act;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether various Committees set in connection with the proposed Food Security Act have since submitted their reports to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which recommendations have been incorporated into the draft bill; and
- (e) the steps taken to improve the Public Distribution System to ensure food security to the poor?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): In pursuance to the announcement made by the President of India in her address to the Joint Session of Parliament on 4th June, 2009, to enact a new law – the National Food Security Act – the Government prepared a Concept Note and had consultations with the Central Ministries/Departments, States/Union Territories, experts and other stakeholders. Based on their comments/suggestions and recommendations of National Advisory Council (NAC) and report of the Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, submitted in January, 2011, the Government have prepared a draft National Food Security Bill. After consultations with States and Union Territories on the Draft Bill, approval of Government at the appropriate level will be obtained before introduction of the Bill in the Parliament.

(e): Strengthening and streamlining of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a continuous process. In consultation with the State/UT Governments, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which inter-alia includes continuous review of BPL/AAY list and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards along with strict action to be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. To improve functioning of TPDS, States/UTs have also been advised to ensure timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops, greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels.