

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:111

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2011

FOOD SECURITY LAW

Joshi Dr. Murlī Manohar,M.Thambidurai Dr.

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

- (a) whether the Government has finalised the modalities of the proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the coverage, pricing and quantum of foodgrains proposed to be provided under the said Law;
- (c) whether the recommendations made by the National Advisory Council for giving a higher quota of foodgrains to priority households has been incorporated therein; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria adopted for identification of the priority households?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 111 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 29.11.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) to (d): In pursuance of 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 – Government prepared a draft National Food Security Bill based on comments/suggestions received from various stakeholders and recommendations of the National Advisory Council (NAC) and Expert Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

The draft Bill provides for coverage of upto 75% of the total rural population, with at least 46% population belonging to priority households and upto 50% of the total urban population, with at least 28% population belonging to priority households under the Targeted Public Distribution System. Priority households are proposed to be provided seven kg of foodgrains per person per month at prices not exceeding Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains respectively. General households will be entitled to three kg of foodgrains per person per month at prices not exceeding 50% of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat and coarse grains and 50% of derived MSP for rice. National Advisory Council (NAC) has also recommended an entitlement of 7 kg per person per month to the priority households. However, for single member priority households, it has recommended at least 14 kg of foodgrains per month.

The draft Bill provides that the Central Government may, from time to time, prescribe the guidelines for identification of priority households and general households, including exclusion criteria, for the purposes of their entitlement under the Act.