

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:401
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
FOODGRAIN SUPPLY UNDER NFSB
Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has imposed restriction on engagement of contractors for supply of foodgrains under the foodgrain based welfare schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Bill for proposed National Food Security Scheme has provisions for allowing contractors to supply foodgrains despite the restrictions imposed by the Supreme Court; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps being taken in this regard?

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 STARRED QUESTION NO. 401 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 23-4-2013 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) and (b) In a Public Interest Litigation W.P. (Civil) No.196/2001 filed by Peoples' Union of Civil Liberties Vs Union of India and Others, Supreme Court of India vide their Order dated 7.10.2004, reiterated on 13.12.2006 and 22.4.2009, had directed that the contractors shall not be used for supply of nutrition in Anganwadis and preferably ICDS funds shall be spent by making use of village communities, self-help groups and Mahila Mandals for buying of grains and preparation of meals. The Ministry of Women and Child Development issued guidelines for revised Nutritional and Feeding norms for Supplementary Nutrition in ICDS to States/UTs on 24th February, 2009, which have been endorsed by the Supreme Court on 22.4.2009 for implementation. States/UTs have been asked to adhere to these guidelines.

With respect to the Mid-Day-Meal scheme being implemented by the M/o Human Resource Development, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed to provide hot cooked meal to the children of the eligible schools. Accordingly, hot cooked mid day meal is being served to the children under the Scheme. MDM guidelines envisage that in urban areas, where there is a space constraint for setting up school kitchens in individual schools, a Centralised Kitchen could be set up for a cluster of schools where cooking can take place and the cooked hot meal may be transported under hygienic conditions through reliable transport systems to various schools. Operation of these Centralized kitchens may be entrusted to reputed NGOs under the PPP model.

(c) Under the National Food Security Bill (NFSB), introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 2011, food based entitlements mainly relate to supply of subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and nutritional support to women and children. As regards TPDS, the Bill inter alia provides that the Central Government shall allocate required quantity of foodgrains to the States and provide for its transportation upto the designated depots, while the State Governments shall be responsible to take delivery of foodgrains from designated depots and ensure actual delivery or supply of foodgrains to entitled persons.

For nutritional support to women and children, the Bill provides for meals, as per the nutritional standards prescribed under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the Mid Day Meal (MDM) schemes. State Governments are required to implement these schemes to deliver entitlements of women and children, in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by Central Government.

(d) Does not arise, in view of replies to parts (a) to (c) above.