

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:324
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013
IMPLEMENTATION OF NFS SCHEME .
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) whether some experts have expressed the view that the implementation of the National Food Security (NFS) Scheme would free up money from Public Distribution System which could be spent on areas like nutrition, better health and education and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Scheme is likely to reduce the burden on food expenditure currently incurred by many States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food has also praised the National Food Security Scheme and has called it worth emulating by many other countries and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): There is no scheme of the Government named National Food Security Scheme. The Government has however promulgated National Food Security Ordinance, 2013, on 5.7.2013, to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach. The Ordinance entitles upto 75% of rural and upto 50% of urban population to receive 5 kgs of foodgrains per person per month at highly subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, will continue to receive 35 kgs of foodgrains per household per month. Highly subsidized prices of foodgrains is likely to result in additional disposable income in the hands of the people, which can be used for other facilities including better nutrition, health and education.

(b) and (c): As foodgrains under the Ordinance will be made available to States/UTs also at the above mentioned prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice/ wheat/coarse grains, which are significantly lower than the current Central Issue Prices for BPL and APL households, the burden of State Governments on buying TPDS foodgrains will reduce. Further, the Ordinance also contains a provision that the Central Government will provide assistance to the State Government in meeting the expenditure incurred by it towards intra-State movement, handling of foodgrains and margins paid to fair price shop dealers, in accordance with such norms and manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(d): As per media reports, Prof. Olivier de Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, has stated that India's food security law has global significance and it can inspire many countries to come up with similar legislation.