

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:178

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013

COMMODITIES UNDER PDS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to include pulses and edible oil apart from foodgrains to the list of commodities to be distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS)/National Food Security at a highly subsidized rate and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether pulses and edible oil proposed to be included thereunder, will have to be imported;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of these commodities in the country; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government for speeding up efficient delivery through PDS by plugging leakage of foodgrains and checking wastage of food and vegetable items?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b), (c) & (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. 178 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2013 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a): There is no proposal to distribute pulses and edible oil under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

(b): The question does not arise.

(c): However, to boost the overall production of pulses and edible oil in the country, Government is implementing the Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in major oilseed, oil palm and pulses growing States. In order to strengthen the Oilseed Production Programme, the ongoing scheme of ISOPOM is being restructured into National Mission on Oilseed and Oil Palm (NMOOP) during 12th Plan with support for additional interventions such as Varietal Specific Targeted Seed Production, supply of machinery and tools for oil palm and provisions for recognition/awards to better performing States and farmers. A sub-scheme namely Oil Palm Area Expansion (OPEA) is also under implementation in oil palm growing States under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Further, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) on pulses including the A3P (Accelerated Pulses Production Programme) for increasing the production and productivity of pulses is being implemented in the country through State Governments. A special plan for kharif pulses production and a programme on additional area coverage of pulses during rabi/summer have also been launched.

(d): Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. Government has regularly reviewed and has issued instructions to States/UTs to strengthen functioning of TPDS by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the viability of Fair Price Shop operations.

To check wastage, procured foodgrains are stored in covered godowns as well as under CAP (Covered and Plinth) storage (wheat and paddy only) for varying periods. During storage, scientific code of practices for safe storage of foodgrains are adopted by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies. Inspections are carried out at various levels to check the quality of foodgrains at regular intervals. Prophylactic and curative treatments are to be carried out for the control of insect pests. Proper aeration, cleaning and brushing of foodgrains stocks are done regularly. Department has also issued instructions from time to time regarding safe storage of foodgrains to FCI and State Governments to avoid damage in central pool stocks.

Government is also implementing schemes to reduce the wastage in agriculture produce such as Scheme of Infrastructure Development comprising Mega Food Park and Cold Chain, Value addition and preservation of infrastructure; National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP); Technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of Food Processing Industries, etc.