

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2007

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013

ALLOCATION UNDER NFSA

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

- (a) whether requests have been received to clearly define beneficiaries and include all the tribals under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether some States have expressed inability to implement NFSA and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to resolve the outstanding issues;
- (c) whether the quota of certain States may be reduced thereunder and if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken thereon;
- (d) whether temporary cards have been issued to the beneficiaries in some States and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) whether any agency has been entrusted with the responsibility to monitor food quality and hygiene and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other schemes provided legal basis under NFSA?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): A wide ranging process of consultation was held for preparation of the National Food Security Act during which a large number of suggestions, including on identification of beneficiaries, were received. Taking into consideration the suggestions received, the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), notified on 10.09.2013, provides that within the State-wise number of persons determined for coverage under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) State Government shall identify the priority households in accordance with guidelines as State Governments may specify. The Act however provides that while implementing provisions of the Act and scheme thereunder special focus be given to the needs of vulnerable groups especially in remote areas, other areas which are difficult to access, hilly and tribal areas, for ensuring their food security.

(b): A Conference of Food Ministers and Food Secretaries of States/UTs was held in New Delhi on 30th September and 1st October, 2013, to discuss various issues relating to implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). In this conference, various implementation related issues, including those raised by the States/UTs, were discussed at length. These issues included evolving criteria for inclusion/exclusion and actual identification of beneficiaries, issue of ration cards, door-step delivery of foodgrains, setting up of Grievance Redressal Machinery at District and State Levels, computerisation of TPDS, creation of scientific storage capacity at various levels and assistance to States/UTs for meeting the expenditure on intra-State transportation, handling and margins to be paid to fair price shop dealers. Recommendations of the conference have been sent to States/UTs for necessary action.

(c): As per the State-wise coverage under TPDS and foodgrains entitlements prescribed in the Act, allocation of foodgrains to 18 States/UTs is estimated to be lower than what they receive under existing TPDS. To address this, it is already provided in the Act that if annual allocation of foodgrains to any State under the Act is less than the average annual offtake for last three years under normal TPDS, the same shall be protected.

(d): After examining the preparedness reported by States/UTs to implement the Act, allocation of foodgrains under the Act has so far been made to Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi. As reported by the Governments of Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi, ration cards under NFSA have incorporated provisions under the Act relating to per unit allocation and empowerment of women. Government of Rajasthan has informed that women headed families will be identifiable through stamping on their ration cards.

(e): Foodgrains are procured as per uniform specifications formulated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution. During storage, scientific code of practices for their safe storage is adopted. The storing agencies carry out regular inspections to monitor the quality. Instructions are issued to Food Corporation of India and State Governments for proper storage and preservation of foodgrains in storage from time to time.

(f): Besides entitlement to foodgrains under TPDS, the Act also provides for entitlements to meal to pregnant women and lactating mothers and children upto fourteen years of age under the Integrated Child Development Services and Mid Day Meal Schemes. The

Act also provides for maternity benefit of not less than rupees six thousand to pregnant women and lactating mothers as per scheme to be framed by the Central Government.