

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3888  
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014  
FOOD SECURITY  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether India was a participant at the 40th Session of Committee on World Food Security held in Rome recently;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof indicating the issues raised and suggestions made therein;
- (c) whether any changes have been proposed in the National Food Security Act as a compromise at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to defend the legislation at the WTO meet; and
- (d) whether the said Act is likely to greatly increase the procurement and expenditure on food subsidy and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held its Fortieth Session from 7 to 11 October 2013 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The Session was attended by delegates from 121 Members of the Committee; 14 non-Member States of the Committee and include representatives from United Nations Agencies and Bodies; Civil society organizations; International agricultural research organization; International and regional financial institutions; Private sector associations and observers.

The 40th Session of CFS in policy round tables deliberated the following two major issues concerning food security:-

- (i) Biofuels and Food Security; and
- (ii) Investing in Small holder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition.

Biofuels and Food Security

On this issue, the following action points, their development and implementation were recommended:-

- (i) Actions towards enhanced policy coherence for food security and biofuels;
- (ii) Actions to promote Research and Development(R&D) on biofuels and food security;
- (iii) Actions with regard to linkages between energy and food security.

Investing in Small holder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition.

The following recommendations are made after deliberations on this round table:-

- (i) Enable national policies for small holder agriculture, improve governance for agriculture and rural development and their evidence based analysis to document the state of small holder agriculture;
- (ii) Promote access to assets, public goods, social services, research and extension and technology;
- (iii) Enable investment, access to markets, productive services and resources to such agriculturists.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) No, Madam. The annual requirement of foodgrains for implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) is estimated at 614.3 lakh tons. While the average annual procurement of wheat and rice during 2008-09 to 2012-13 has been 617.8 lakh tons and the present annual estimated requirements under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare scheme is 563.7 lakh tons. The estimated annual food subsidy for implementation of NFSA, at 2013-14 costs, is about Rs.1,27,733 crore. The

estimated food subsidy requirement under existing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), taking into account normal TPDS allocations, and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) requirements, is estimated at about Rs.1,00,953 crore, implying thereby annual additionality of about Rs.26,780 crore on account of food subsidy due to implementation of NFSA.