

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5646

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015

Implementation of NFSA

Arunmozhithevan Shri A.;Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar;Chaudhary Shri C.R.;Ering Shri Ninong;Galla Shri Jayadev;Kesineni Shri Srinivas;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

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

- (a) whether the complete roll out of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) has been repeatedly delayed and the Government has further extended the deadline by six months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective steps taken in this regard indicating the number of States where it is already being implemented;
- (c) the present status of the Socio- Economic Caste census along with the time by which the work relating to the census and identification of beneficiaries under NFSA is likely to be completed;
- (d) the percentage increase in the number of beneficiaries and foodgrain allocation under NFSA over the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);
- (e) the steps taken to set up e-governance/ grievance redressal mechanism to make the system more transparent and efficient; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken to ensure that NFSA is properly and fully implemented across the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (c): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) has deemed to have come into force on 05.07.2013. It inter alia provides for a period not exceeding 365 days to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for identification of eligible households for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Based on the preparedness reported by 11 States/UTs, allocation of foodgrains under the Act has started to them. As implementation of the Act has not started in remaining 25 States/UTs, another extension, upto 30.09.2015, has been given to the States/UTs to complete identification of beneficiaries and other preparatory measures. In these States/UTs foodgrains allocation under existing TPDS is continuing.

The Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) has six stages viz. enumeration, supervision, verifications & corrections, draft list publication, claims & objections and final list publication. As on 20.04.2015, draft lists have been published in 540 districts and final lists in 162 districts. Under NFSA, eligible households comprise of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and priority households. While the identification of AAY households is to be done in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the said scheme, the remaining households, i.e. priority households, are to be identified in accordance with such guidelines as State Governments may specify. AAY is an ongoing scheme and the AAY households are already identified in States/UTs. For identification of priority households, complete responsibility for evolving the criteria and their actual identification is with the State Governments. It is not linked to SECC under the Act.

(d): Under existing TPDS, about 6.5 crore households are covered under BPL category (including Antyodaya Anna Yojana) and the remaining about 11.5 crore household under APL category. Allocation of foodgrains for APL households is however subject to availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Compared to this, about 81.35 crore persons are entitled to receive subsidised foodgrains under NFSA. Estimated foodgrain requirement under NFSA is about 9% higher than the existing TPDS.

(e): Government is implementing a Plan Scheme on End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations on cost sharing basis with the States/UTs, which comprises activities, namely, digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, computerisation of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms. The NFSA also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels. Separate provisions such as disclosure of records relating to TPDS, social audits and setting up of Vigilance Committees have also been made in the Act in order to ensure transparency and accountability.

(f): Implementation of the Act is reviewed on a regular basis and necessary advisories are issued to States/UTs, wherever required. In order to ensure proper implementation of the Act, stress is on proper identification of beneficiaries through a transparent and participative process, delivery of foodgrains by designated State agencies upto the door-steps of fair price shops, availability of adequate scientific storage facilities at various levels, end-to-end computerisation of TPDS operations and setting up of effective

grievance redressal mechanism, among others.