

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:118

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2015

Implementation of NFSA

Kulaste Shri Faggan Singh;Pal Shri Jagdambika

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

(a) whether there has been an inordinate delay in the proper and absolute implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, beyond the 365 days limit for its implementation, prescribed under the Act, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether requests have been received from the States for extension of the deadline for implementation of the Act, if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto indicating the deadline fixed for its implementation in various States; and

(c) whether the Government has urged the States to link the recent Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011 with the implementation of the NFSA, particularly in identifying beneficiaries and allocating funds and if so, the details thereof indicating the total number of States that have agreed to adopt the SECC?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 118 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 28-07-2015 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) to (c): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provided for a period not exceeding 365 days to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for identification of eligible households, within the coverage determined for each State/UT, for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Eligible households under the Act comprise of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and priority households. As per the Act, identification of AAY households is to be done in accordance with the guidelines applicable to said scheme, whereas priority households are to be identified in accordance with such guidelines as States/UTs 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 States/UTs. It is not linked to Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011 under the Act.

Main responsibility for implementation of the Act, which inter alia includes identification of eligible households, issuing ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains' entitlements to eligible households through fair price shops, setting up effective grievance redressal mechanism, necessary strengthening of TPDS, rests with State/UT Governments. Accordingly, based on identification of beneficiaries and preparedness reported by 13 States/UTs, foodgrains under the Act are being allocated to them. Remaining 23 States/UTs have not completed all the preparatory measures required for implementation of the Act and foodgrains allocation under existing TPDS is continuing in these States/UTs. As implementation of the Act did not start in several States/UTs and some of the States/UTs also sought extension of time to complete identification of beneficiaries and other preparatory measures, the time period of 365 days provided in Act had to be extended thrice, latest extension being upto 30.09.2015.
