

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6164
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Food to Poor
Anwar Shri Tariq

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the agriculture which accounts for a huge share in the country's Gross Domestic Product is able to provide food to the poor people at affordable rates; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to ensure food security in the country;
- (c) whether in view of the pitiable condition of the farmers, the Government proposes to make such arrangements for them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

श्री अलुवालिया जी (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) to (d): The production of foodgrains in the country has generally been in excess of their projected demand and there is no shortage of foodgrains in the country.

The Government ensures food security in the country through timely and efficient procurement and distribution of foodgrains.

The Government launched Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to provide food to poor people at a subsidized price. Under TPDS, central government is responsible for procurement, storage, transportation, and bulk allocation of foodgrains to the State Government. The State governments hold the responsibility of allocation of foodgrains within the State, lifting of foodgrains from Food Corporation of India (FCI) Depots, transportation of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops within the State, identification of eligible families/persons, issue of Ration Cards, distribution of foodgrains to beneficiaries, supervision of the functioning of Fair Price Shops etc.

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The Government also launched National Food Security Act (NFSA) with coverage of 67% of population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas) to provide food and nutritional security to poor people. Under the Act, foodgrains is distributed @ 5 kg per person per month for priority households category and @ 35 kg per person per month for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families at a highly subsidized prices of Rs. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 per kg for coarse grains, wheat and rice respectively.

During 2016-17, Government has allocated 513.45 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under NFSA and 29.27 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under TPDS to the State before implementation of NFSA by them. In addition, Government has also allocated 1.87 lakh tonnes of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) family in non-NSFA States, 29.03 lakh tonnes of foodgrains for festivals and other additional requirement and 55.29 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under other welfare scheme such as Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP), Sabla, Annapurna Scheme etc.