

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:418

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014

IMPLEMENTATION OF NFSA

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

- (a) the present status of implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) indicating the States where it has not been implemented along with the reasons for their failure to introduce it and the quantum of unspent amount for the purpose;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries identified under NFSA;
- (c) whether the Government has extended the time limit for identification of beneficiaries and implementation of the scheme in all the States, if so, the details thereof and the response of States thereto indicating the deadline fixed for implementation of provisions of the Act;
- (d) whether the Government has issued any guidelines for effective implementation of the Scheme and to check diversion/irregularities therein; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

(a) to (e): 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). Allocation of foodgrains to 11 States/Union Territories (UTs) namely, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan has started under the Act based on the preparedness and identification of 34 crore beneficiaries for coverage under the Act, reported by them.

Remaining 25 States/UTs have not completed the preparatory measures required for implementation of the Act. As Period of 365 days for identification of eligible households got over on 04.07.2014, an additional three months time was given to these States/UTs to complete the identification exercise and start implementation of the Act, which has been further extended by another six months, i.e. till 04.04.2015.

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, steps are being taken to strengthen the TPDS through stress 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 and end-to-end computerisation of TPDS operations, among others.