

As indicated in the Central Budget 1996-97, a beginning in this regard is proposed to be made where the need is most acutely felt namely issue of foodgrains.

To start with, it is proposed to issue 10 kg. of foodgrains per family, per month, at half the issue prices for all families below the poverty line as per the estimates for 1993-94 arrived at by the Planning Commission using the methodology of the Expert Group under Prof. Lakdawala. Further as recommended by the Conference of Chief Ministers, the average lifting of foodgrains for the last ten years by the States is proposed to be continued for the benefit of the population Above the Poverty Line (APL) at present getting the benefit of the Public Distribution System. The quantity of foodgrains out of this average lifting which is in excess of the requirement for the population below poverty line, is proposed to be allocated to States as a transitory allocation, at the Central Issue Prices.

Government also proposes to extend the issue of specially subsidised foodgrains to the beneficiaries under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY) and issue of one kilogram of Rice/Wheat per person per day.

It is well known that the Central Issue Prices for rice and wheat have not been revised after 1.2.1994. Subsequently, the Minimum Support Price for both Rice and Wheat have been raised three and four times respectively. Taking into account these revisions and the increase in other incidental charges and at the same time not to cause too much of hardship to the people, Government have proposed to fix the Central Issue Prices for the Targetted PDS as indicated below :

Issue Price (Rs./kg.)	Common	Rice Fine	Super fine	Wheat	Total Subsidy (Rs. in Crores)
BPL	3.50	3.50	—	2.50	8282.90
APL	—	6.50	7.50	4.50	

The Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is primarily focused on the poor and will benefit 32 crore people Below the Poverty Line. The food subsidy under the TPDS will be about Rs. 8,000 crore. A quantum of 180 LMT of foodgrains is likely to be issued under the TPDS.

Any State which wants to cover a large number of persons or increase the scale of issue or reduce the price, is free to do so provided it can meet the additional requirement of foodgrains and funds from its own resources.

In implementing the Targetted Public Distribution System, State Governments must identify the beneficiaries under T.P.D.S., issue special cards to them and ensure

delivery of foodgrains to these intended beneficiaries. Detailed guidelines have been issued in this regard and they are placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. L.T. 1363/97] I do hope that the State Governments will follow these guidelines scrupulously and see that the poorest section of our society get their entitled quantum of foodgrains without fail.

12.06 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now we shall take up Papers Laid on the Table and then we shall come back to Zero Hour.

Papers under Sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1346/97]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1347/97]

Notifications under Section 31 of the SEBI Act, 1992

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Security and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 :—

- (1) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Depositories and Participants) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 345 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1348/97]