

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 12.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT .

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Dr. T.N. Seema

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

- (a) whether Government proposed to enact a new law `the National Food Security Act` that will provide a statutory basis for a framework which assures food security for all;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that even after 16 months down the line, the assurance is still eluding the country and the people;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government for ensuring the food security for all?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d) : As announced by the President in her address to the joint session of Parliament on 4-6-2009, the Government is committed to enact a National Food Security Act (NFSA) which, inter alia, envisages entitling every family below poverty line to a certain quantity of food grains each month at subsidized prices. The National Advisory Council (NAC) has finalised its recommendations on proposed National Food Security Bill (NFSB) in its meeting held on 23rd October 2010. The recommendations of NAC and other stakeholders will be considered by the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted to consider various issues regarding the proposed law on food security. Based on directions of EGoM, draft Bill would be prepared and further action taken.

(e) : Foodgrains are being allocated at highly subsidized prices under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes to ensure food security to the most vulnerable sections of the society. At present under TPDS, Government makes allocation of foodgrains to 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line families, including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana families @ 35 kg. per family per month. Allocation of foodgrains at subsidized rates is also made for 11.52 crore Above Poverty Line families ranging between 15 kg. and 35 kg. per family per month. Further, this Department has been making allocations for other Welfare Schemes and natural calamities among others and additional allocation of foodgrains depending upon availability of stocks and the requirement/requests received from States/UTs.