

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3633
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08th AUGUST, 2017

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT

3633. SHRI ANSHUL VERMA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the total population of rural and urban areas covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA);
- (b) whether any mechanism has been put in place to monitor the quality of food provided through National Food Security Act, 2013 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has urged the States to speed up implementation of the Act in their respective States and if so, the response of the State Governments thereto?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population, at the all India level, for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains and currently 80.55 crore persons are covered under the Act.

(b): Mechanism adopted for ensuring quality of foodgrains and meals is at Annexure.

(c): The Act is being implemented in all the 36 States/Union Territories.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3633 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 08.08.2017 IN LOK SABHA

A. Foodgrains under TPDS :

To ensure supply of good quality of foodgrains under TPDS and other welfare schemes, instructions are issued from time to time to State Governments and Food Corporation (FCI) of India to follow the prescribed procedure to issue the foodgrains to State Governments from FCI godowns, which are summarized as follows:

- i. Only good quality of foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under PDS.
- ii. Ample opportunities are to be provided to the State Government to check the quality of foodgrains prior to lifting the foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.
- iii. The samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed from the stocks of foodgrains to be issued under the PDS jointly by FCI and State Governments/UT Administrations.
- iv. An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from State Government to take delivery of foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.
- v. Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Government.
- vi. It is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations to ensure that during transportation and storage at different states in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.
- vii. The State Government, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under PDS and other welfare schemes should meet the desired standards prescribed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

B. Supplementary nutrition under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme:

For preparation of meals and maintenance of its standards and quality, the Supplementary Nutrition (Under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme) Rules, 2015, notified under NFSA, provide as under:

- i. The meal shall be prepared as per the guidelines, instructions or orders issued by the Central Government from time to time (taking into account the orders or 'guidelines issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts), and the provisions of Schedule II of NFSA and any other law for the time being in force.
- ii. The State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations, with the support of Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) shall ensure the quality of supplementary nutrition with reference to the norms of food safety, as well as food composition.
- iii. The Supplementary Nutrition shall conform to the standards laid down under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 to ensure consistent quality and nutritive value of the intervention per serving and it shall also be ensured that the meal is prepared in kitchen having adequate sanitation and safe drinking water to maintain hygienic conditions.

- iv. It shall be the responsibility of the concerned Programme Officer and the Child Development Project Officer under the ICDS to ensure the quality of supplementary provision with reference to the norms of food safety as well as food composition.
- v. FNB, in collaboration with the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations, shall carry out periodic checks and test the meal or get it tested through the Government Food Research Laboratory accredited or recognized by any law for the time being in force, so as to ensure that the meal meets with the nutritional standards and quality specified in Schedule II of NFSA.
- vi. Similarly, the officers, as authorized by the State Governments or the Union Territory Administrations, shall also conduct surprise checks and draw samples and get them tested through the above laboratories to ensure quality and nutrient value of the meal.
- vii. The Food should be tasted by the Anganwadi worker or helper before it is served to the beneficiaries at Anganwadi Centre.

C. Mid Day Meal: The Mid-Day- Meal Rules, 2015, notified under NFSA provides the following with regard to testing of meals by accredited Laboratories:

(i) Hot cooked meal provided to children shall be evaluated and certified by the Government Food Research Laboratory accredited or recognized by law, so as to ensure that the meal meets with the nutritional standards and quality standards and quality specified in Schedule II to NFSA. The Food and Drugs Administration Department of the State may collect samples to ensure the nutritive value and quality of the meals.

(ii) The Food and Drugs Administration Department of the State Governments shall collect the sample at least once in a month from randomly selected schools or centralized kitchen and send such samples for examinations to the laboratories referred to at (i) above.
