

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2516
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2022

IMPROVEMENT IN LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTS

2516. SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take measures in the improvement of local food products in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is providing adequate food supplies with quality in the Country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government charges extra payment for supply to far flung and remote valleys of the Country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has detailed plan to amend the food lists for supply in the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries implements a scheme for setting up/upgradation of food testing laboratories since 2005. With the objective to strengthen food quality control infrastructure and make it available to food processing sectors including other stakeholders to ensure compliance with domestic and international safety standards, and also to reduce turnaround time for analysis of food samples. This scheme has created supporting infrastructure to ensure quality of food produced and manufactured in India, exported to other countries and also imported in India.

Under this scheme, the Central/State Governments and there organisations /Government Universities including deemed universities and all other implementing agencies and private sectors universities are eligible for financial assistance for setting up food testing laboratories. As on 16.12.2022, total 172 food testing laboratories projects have been approved across the country, out of which 139 have since been completed.

The procurement of foodgrains like rice, wheat and coarsegrains for building of buffer is undertaken in conformity with Fair Average Quality (FAQ) standard.

The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 in all the States/UTs. The Act provides for coverage upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population (census 2011) for receiving food grains such as rice, wheat and coarse grains at highly subsidized rates viz. Rs. 3/2/1 per kg respectively. Under this act, the Priority Households (PH) are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month and Antyodya Anna Yojana (AAY) families are entitled to receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month per family at the same rates. As per the Food Security (Assistance to State Government) (Amendment) Rules, 2022, the norms of expenditure for intra-State movement and handling, fair price shop dealers margin and percentage share of Central have been made more liberal for hilly and the North Eastern States, and Islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep.

There is no proposal to amend the list of food supplied under NFSA, 2013.
