



SPEECH OF

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AT

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Respected Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture, Respected Professor K. V. Thomas, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and esteemed fellow Food Ministers of the States/UTs.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Professor K. V. Thomas, Hon'ble Union Minister for holding two days Conference in which issues relating to implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 will be discussed.

The J&K State welcomes the enactment of National Food Security Act, 2013. The steps have been initiated for taking care of vulnerable sections of the population for ensuring food to all, specifically to BPL, AAY, pregnant ladies and children through Mid Day Meals

programme. However, before responding to various agenda points, I would like to comment on the status of coverage of the population under National Food Security Act, 2013 in respect of the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Draft Food Security Bill, 2011, which was circulated to all the States for comments, was responded by the State Government with the recommendations for coverage of 100% of rural population and 90% of urban population instead of 75% of rural and 50% of urban population, as proposed in the Bill (Schedule-III). The State Government also recommended for issue of 7 Kgs of foodgrains per soul instead of proposed 5Kgs.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution constituted for the purpose, visited the State in September, 2012 wherein during discussion, it was reiterated and stressed for consideration of the comments of the State under coverage of population and scale of foodgrains. Again while responding to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee received from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India, the State Government made it clear and repeated that coverage of the population and scale of foodgrains be taken into consideration in the National Food Security Act, 2013. The recommendations of the State Government have not found place in the

provisions of the National Food Security Ordinance, 2013 promulgated by the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India and finally under the National Food Security Act, 2013, the proposed coverage of 75% of rural population and 50% of urban population with scale of 5Kgs. of foodgrains per soul has been enacted.

Presently the State Government covers 99.01 lacs population as per the projected population of the year 2000. There are 18.02 lac families (Ration Ticket Holders) receiving foodgrains @ 35Kgs per family per month. The Government of India allocates 63,06 MTs of foodgrains for the total projected population of 2000 at the said scale of 3 Kgs per family per month.

As per Census 2011, the population of the State has been projected as 125.489 lac, thus 22.73 lac families worked out on the basis of national average of 5.25 persons per family norm are to be covered which would require 79, 555 MTs of foodgrains at the scale of 35 Kgs per family in a month. Therefore, there would be short fall of 16486 MTs of foodgrains per month for 100% coverage of the population.

As per National Food Security Act, 2013 promulgated by the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, only 75% population of the rural areas and 50% of urban population is to be covered and provided subsidized ration. The eligible household rationees shall be provided foodgrains at the scale of 5 Kgs

per soul per month, while as out of the same the rationees under AAY Scheme shall be provided foodgrains at the scale of 35 Kgs per family per month. As per the Census 2011, the total rural population is 91.348 lac and urban population is 34.141 lac, therefore, as per the provisions of Ordinance, only 68.51 lac in rural areas and 17.07 lac in urban areas totalling to 85.58 lac population shall be covered for subsidized foodgrains. Thus overall 68% of population shall be covered under the National Food Security Ordinance. There will be no subsidized ration for 32% of population i.e. 39.97 lac in the State.

The Government of India vide D.O. letter No. H-110/8/1/2013-NFA dated 26th July, 2013 has communicated State wise percentage of population to be covered

in rural as well as in urban areas in all the states keeping in view the various parameters which they have taken into consideration for getting monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). The figures which have been communicated to the State of J&K, covers 58.05% population in rural areas and 16.08% in urban areas only which indicates further decline in the coverage of population from the norms of 75% and 50% in rural and urban areas respectively. For the said population at the scale of 5 Kgs per soul and 35 Kgs per family under AAY Scheme, total quantity which shall be allocated by the Govt. of India would be 45, 175 MTs only. It is quite clear that the State of J&K shall be receiving

17,892 MTs less to the already allocated quantity of 63, 067 MTs at the projected population of 2000.

The State of J&K does not have anything to get out of the National Food Security Act, 2013 instead has been put to adverse situation. The Government of India has directed for identification of eligible households as per the figures communicated for rural and urban areas after fixing the criteria of inclusions and exclusions.

Thank You