



**GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR**

**SPEECH  
OF**

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MANIPUR**

**ON THE OCCASION OF  
CONFERENCE OF FOOD MINISTERS AND  
FOOD SECRETARIES OF STATES/UTS**

**ON**

**1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2013**

**AT**

**A.P. SHINDE SYMPOSIUM HALL, NASC COMPLEX, ICAR  
PUSA, NEW DELHI**

*Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution,*

*Hon'ble Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission of India,*

*My colleague Hon'ble Food Ministers of States and UTs*

*Union Cabinet Secretary,*

*Secretary, Dept. of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of India,*

*Officers from the Centre and State Govt. and friends,*

I am happy to attend this very important Conference of Food Ministers and Secretaries of States and UTs today, particularly after the National Food Security Act, 2013 has been notified for early implementation by the Centre Govt.

My State Govt. welcome the National Food Security Act, 2013 wholeheartedly and feel that this is one vital opportunity to address the many issues we have been facing for many years till now in trying to ensure a proper and effective Public Distribution System in the State to benefit the people. The Act also gives us a lot of challenges as it needs to be enforced vigorously to meet its objective failing which our accountability will increase many fold. This Conference is very important as it provides all States a common platform to bring up issues we have in our effort to implement the National Food Security Act, 2013 effectively.

In respect of Manipur State, Govt. of India has intimated that 23.87 lakhs population which is 87% of our total population of 27.22 lakhs as per 2011 Census will be covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013. The family size of Manipur is 5.05 persons as per 2011 Census and the coverage is 4.77 lakh families including 63,000 AAY families. Manipur presently has 5,41,920 households with 3,76,920 APL, 1,02,400 BPL and 63,600 AAY households. The important point here is that the annual allocation by Govt. of India is now given at 1.51 lakhs MT based on the average annual offtake of 1.30 lakhs MTs during 2010-11 to 2012-13. This is much lower than our requirement of 1.71 lakh MT of foodgrains. Taking the average of annual offtake during last few years of 2010-11 to 2012-13 as the basis for annual allocation is NOT correct for Manipur because there were long blockades, bandhs and landslides that severely affected induction of foodgrains into Manipur by FCI which necessitated the intervention of the PMO, Cabinet Secretary and various concerned Ministries like Home, Petroleum, etc. during 2010 which Central Govt. is fully aware of. Lower offtake in Manipur is NOT due to lesser need but due to external factors. Therefore, I sincerely request the Ministry to

increase the annual allocation for Manipur either through raising of the annual allocation or through provision of additional and adhoc allocations for Rice and Wheat on monthly basis. If this is not provided, Manipur, with the poorest connectivity in the country added to its isolated location and insurgency problem, will suffer tremendously in implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

Govt. of India had asked all States to report their preparedness to implement the National Food Security Act, 2013. Manipur is very much willing to implement it but NOT yet prepared due to many shortfalls in infrastructure, logistical requirements, lack of fund, lack of manpower etc. which other States may not face. We need huge support from the Central Govt. to meet the following requirements :-

- 1. Construction of FCI Godowns:** The construction of FCI Godowns at Imphal East, Bishnupur and Jiribam (Phase-II) needs to be expedited. The construction at Churachandpur needs to be completed quickly. The completed Godown at Mayangpham, Senapati District needs to be made functional at the earliest. The remaining need for FCI Godowns at Chandel, Thoubal and Tamenglong needs to be started without further delay by FCI.

The existing FCI storage capacity is 29,590 MT only and there is a shortage of about 10,000 MT now.

- 2. Need for FCI / State Godowns at interior locations:** It is essential to construct Godowns at Tousem and Tamei in Tamenglong District and at Parbung in Tipamukh Sub-Division of Churachandpur District as these are perennially food deficit areas which faced serious food scarcity during 2010 and 2012 long blockades in Manipur. Moreover, the poor connectivity to these areas often get cut-off for long periods during the rainy seasons due to landslides and slow restoration. Further, bad law & order situations, frequent bandhs and blockades and insurgency do not facilitate frequent replenishment. Since State Govt. is facing acute financial constraints, FCI may construct Godowns at these crucial locations.

- 3. Construction of FPS Shop Buildings:** The FPS system in Manipur had failed largely because they are run in private shops and any termination of an FPS agent and appointment of new agents due to performance related issues require capital investments which the FPS agents are reluctant to set up due to unpredictable situation particularly related to insurgency also. Therefore, it is proposed to construct 2700 FPS Shop

Buildings of one-room each at central location of all FPS centres that can be utilized on rent by the appointed FPS agents from time to time. Govt. of India may kindly consider a One-Time Financial Support/Package to help Manipur in establishing this project.

- 4. Procurement of Transportation vehicles with GPS tracking system for PDS including Door Step Delivery:** One of the key to an effective PDS is to have effective control over transportation of PDS foodgrains. This may be facilitated in a State like Manipur by providing a fleet of Trucks fitted with GPS tracking system to ensure timely and proper delivery of foodgrains to the respective destinations. Similarly, vehicles to support Door Step Delivery may also be provided. In view of the acute financial constraints of the State Govt, Govt. of India may kindly consider a One-Time Financial Support/Package to help Manipur in this regard.
- 5. Need for adequate Manpower:** The implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 will require huge effort from the State Govt. The State Dept. of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution will need appropriate expansion in its cadre, size and spread, expertise and training to shift from the present manual system to a computerized system of functioning that must be both transparent and accountable so as to implement the National Food Security Act, 2013 in its spirit and achieve its objectives. Manipur is presently under ban on appointment which prohibits even recruitments against vacancies caused by retirements, not to speak of creation of posts and recruitments thereof. Trained personnels and additional staff will be essential to make the efforts effective. Due to the acute financial constraints of the State Govt, Govt. of India may kindly consider Financial Support/Package to help Manipur in expanding and improvement the manpower of the Dept with the required expertise through creation of Centrally funded posts, recruitment and training.
- 6. Assistance to State for meeting expenditure on Intra-State transportation, handing and margins to be paid to FPS agents under Section 22 (4) (d):** Due to inability of the State Govt. to finance the amounts required for meeting expenditure on Intra-State transportation, handing and margins to be paid to FPS agents, the State Govt. had been levying charges for the last many years. At present, Rs.100/- is levied per Qtl to meet transportation and handing charges from State Godowns to PDCs and PDSCs. In addition, Rs.65/- is levied

as FPS commission. Now, with the implementation of the Act, the State Govt. will be mandated to reach the consumers at the subsidized rate of Rs.1/-, Rs.2/- & Rs.3/- per Kg to the household beneficiaries. In the absence of fund for transportation and handing charges and FPS commission, its implementation will be severely affected from the very beginning and may be a non-starter. Therefore, considering the acute financial constraints of the State Govt, Govt. of India may kindly consider 100% Central funding of transportation and handing charges and FPS commission at the State's existing rates or any higher revised rate, either through annual grants in the beginning of the financial year or through monthly re-imburements of the actual expenditures on very regular basis without any delay.

**7. Beneficiaries for Sugar & S.K.Oil through PDS under National Food Security Act, 2013:** The allocation for Sugar may be made on the basis of the existing household of 2011 Census while the same may also be applied for S.K.Oil for cooking and lighting purposes with the exclusion of households having LPG connections.

I believe the finer details and major common issues for effective implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 would have been discussed and resolved in the deliberations of the Food Secretaries yesterday. I look forward to a strong commitment from the Central Govt. in terms of enabling the State Govts., particularly a State like Manipur with the poorest connectivity, far-off and remote location from the mainland, bad law & order situation with insurgency, difficult terrain, acute financial constraints of the State Govt., lack of adequate infrastructure and trained manpower, and many other problems, so that this historic Act can be a game-changer for a food-deficit State like Manipur and a harbinger of food security through an effective mechanism for the people of the State.

Thank you.

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