



सत्यमेव जयते

# **Food Minister's Conference on the National Food Security Act, 2013**

Speech of  
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Government of Tripura

AP Shinde Symposium Hall,  
Pusa, New Delhi.  
1<sup>st</sup> October, 2013.

**Hon'ble Union Minister for CA, Food & Public Distribution, Prof. K.V.Thomas, distinguished colleagues and dignitaries present in the conference.**

It is my privilege to be here in the first national conference of Food Ministers after the enactment of the Food Security Act, 2013.

I am thankful to the ministry for inviting me in the conference to express the views of the Govt. of Tripura about the NFS Act, 2013.

**1.  
UNIVERSAL  
PDS BE  
INTRODUCED**

First of all, the act in the name of Food Security deprived one third of the country's population approximately 40 crores of people. Are they all do not deserve food security? Universal Public Distribution System at a lower rate with sufficient quantity of food grains can only ensure food security to all. Our government demands, supply of 35 Kg. of cereals per family @ Rs. 2 per kg. TPDS idea should be dropped.

**2.  
THREAT OF  
FOOD  
SECURITY**

Progressive reforms in TPDS by introducing scheme such as Cash Transfer, Food Coupons etc in future will be a serious threat to the food security system.

**3.  
FOOD  
SECURITY  
ALLOWANCE  
ISSUE**

Food security allowance by the state governments in case of failure to supply food grains is a dangerous proposition and it is not desirable. This will bound to create chaos and unstable situation for the families who will be provided allowance instead of Food grains. In that situation they will be completely exploited by the market. Therefore, this should not be thought of doing.

**4.  
PRICE ISSUE  
OF NON-  
PRIORITY  
PEOPLE**

It is proposed that the Price of the non TPDS supply of food grains from the present state quota will be determined by the Union Government. We propose that the price for food grains of this particular category of beneficiaries should be less than the present rate of APL price.

**5.  
ADDITIONAL  
ITEMS IN PDS**

Food security does not mean mere supply of cereals only. It should include supply of pulses and edible oils also to have a balanced nutritious meal daily. Therefore, we propose that at least some essential items of daily needs should also be supplied at a fair price.

**6.  
TRANSPORT  
COST &  
DEALER  
COMMISSION**

To ensure door step supply by the state governments, the accelerating transport cost and dealers commission to the Fair Price Shop dealers be given through 100% central funding so that the system may function smoothly.

**7.  
GREIVENCE  
REDRESSAL  
MACHINERY**

100% central funding for grievance redressal mechanism as suggested in the Act for the States be implemented seriously and sincerely.

**8.  
PRIORITY  
HOUSEHOLD  
SELECTION  
CRITERIA**

How the priority households be selected other than AAY? Whether national criteria will be evolved or states will be empowered to do so by framing state guidelines for this purpose? It is crucial to decide before introducing the National Food Security Act, 2013.

**9.  
SUGER ISSUE**

Now supply of sugar by FCI from June, 2013 has been discontinued and direction for procurement of sugar from market by states is a major departure of the Union government from the prevailing system of supplying sugar by levying sugar from sugar mills. By giving Rs.18.50 per kg. subsidy and fixing the rate of Rs. 13.50 per kg for

sale to the consumers, Government of India has forced the states to bear additional burden of matching grant by states. In our state, supply of sugar has been restored but excess expenditure of Rs. 5.47 per kg shall have to be borne by the State Government which involves crores of rupees. It is undoubtedly a big and unforeseen as well as unbearable burden for us. In this situation we request the Union Government to take some relief measures for the North East States to lessen the burden.

**10.  
INCREASE OF  
KEROSENE  
OIL  
ALLOCATION**

Due to increase of the population in the state, additional 506 KL of Kerosene Oil is required for supply @ 1 litre per head over the present allocation of 3264 KL per month.

I also request the Union Government to address the issues raised by our state being a Special Category North East state.

While concluding, I would convey my gratitude to the ministry for convening the conference on such a significant national issue and for listening the voice of the states.

Thank you all.