

Regarding alleged pilferage of foodgrains in West Bengal-laid

DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY (JALPAIGURI): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards a matter of grave concern, one that strikes at the very core of our commitment to social justice - the misappropriation of essential goods. In October, nearly 30% of the PDS ration meant for beneficiaries in West Bengal was diverted to the open market. The PDS is meant for distribution of food and non-food items to India's poor at subsidized rates. This is not just the 1st time, in 2022, at least 37 ration dealers were arrested while the licenses of 42 others were suspended in the State for their alleged involvement in misappropriation of PDS commodities. The repercussions of such malpractices are far-reaching, affecting the very individuals for whom these schemes are designed - the underprivileged. Therefore, I request the Hon?ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to look closely at such incidents of pilferage of food grains and take decisive actions against the perpetrators. It is crucial that stringent measures are implemented to discourage further occurrences.