

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:400

ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007

DIVERSION OF FOODGRAINS

Appadurai Shri M.;Bhagora Shri Mahavir;Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar;Mondal Shri Abu Ayes;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Rijju Shri Kiren;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed;Senthil Dr. Raman;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether large scale diversion and distribution of poor quality foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS) has been reported recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of cases reported during the last one year, State-wise;
- (c) the extent of losses suffered by the Government as a result of such diversions;
- (d) whether the honourable Supreme Court has issued certain directions in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (f) the steps taken by Government to implement the directives of the Supreme Court; and
- (g) the other steps taken by the Government to strengthen PDS and check diversions?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a), (b) & (c): Yes, Sir. Certain complaints/reports have been received about diversion of foodgrains under PDS and their poor quality in some States.

Details of such complaints received from Jan. 2007 onwards are given below:-

Sl. No. State      Complaints Received

1. Maharashtra    3
2. Madhya Pradesh    3
3. Delhi            4
4. Himachal Pradesh    1
5. West Bengal       4
6. Karnataka       2
7. Punjab           2
8. Haryana           2
9. Andhra Pradesh    1
10. Jammu & Kashmir    1
11. Rajasthan        2
12. Kerala           1
13. Uttar Pradesh    5
14. Tamil Nadu       1
15. Bihar            1
16. Jharkhand        1
17. Pondicherry      1

Total    35

Since the complaints received have been sent to concerned State Governments for inquiry and appropriate action, the extent of loss, if any, can be ascertained only on conclusion of the inquiries into those complaints.

(d): Yes, Sir.

(e) & (f): On Writ Petition No. 274 of 2005, Supreme Court has issued direction for ascertaining demand from TPDS beneficiaries for

distribution of Atta and whole wheat, and thereafter wheat is to be issued by the State Governments to Flour mills for conversion into atta for distribution under TPDS. As per the direction of the Supreme Court, further action is to be taken by State Governments.

(g): Strengthening of the Targeted Public Distribution System to improve its efficiency, accountability and effectiveness is an ongoing process. Based on findings of earlier studies of TPDS, a Nine-Point Action Plan is already under implementation by States and UT Governments. Its implementation is monitored by the Central Government.

Additionally, a revised Citizens` Charter has been issued recently for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments for facilitating use by citizens of provisions of Right to information (RTI) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.