

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2394
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
GRIEVANCES OF PDS BENEFICIARIES
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the performance of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in providing food to the poor, so far;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any survey has also been conducted to ascertain the grievances of the people dependent on PDS;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to redress their grievances?

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), (d) & (e): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the Joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement of foodgrains (rice & wheat), storage and their transportation upto the Principal Distribution Centres of FCI, and the State Governments are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them and distribution of foodgrains through a vast net work of 4.92 lakh Fair Price Shops scattered all over the country.

No survey specifically to ascertain grievances of the people dependent on PDS has been conducted. However, to get independent feedback, the Department got conducted studies by PEO (Planning Commission) and ORG MARG in 2005. These studies reported diversion of foodgrains, exclusion and inclusion errors in identification of BPL families and non-viability of functioning of Fair Price Shops.

Based on findings of these 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 under provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.