

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1656
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
NON-AVAILABILITY OF FOOD ITEMS IN PDS
Meghwal Shri Kailash

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

- (a) whether food-items specified for distribution to BPL families in rural areas are generally not available at the ration shops; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure the availability of the good quality food items under PDS/revamped PDS at ration shops in rural areas?

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): No such complaint has been received by the Government. The Public Distribution System (PDS) provides for distribution of foodgrains to the entire population in the country irrespective of whether they are from rural or urban areas. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is required to supply foodgrains of fair average quality conforming to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act Standards to the States for distribution under the Targetted Public Distribution System and other Welfare Schemes. The State Governments are free to inspect the stocks and satisfy themselves about their quality before lifting the same from FCI depots. The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 provides that the representatives of State Governments or their nominees and FCI shall conduct joint inspection of the stocks of foodgrains intended for issue to ensure that the stocks conform to the prescribed quality specifications.