

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:20
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
STRENGTHENING OF PDs
Punia Shri P.L. ;Singh Shri Ijyaraj

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

- (a) the details and the outcome of the review of Public Distribution System (PDS)/Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the last three years;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring transparency and strengthen PDS and TPDS and stabilize prices of essential items alongwith the achievements made therein;
- (c) whether any guidelines have been issued to the States in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.20 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 23.02.2010 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (d): To assess functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), a concurrent evaluation study was conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 12 States.

NCAER has submitted reports on concurrent evaluation of TPDS in respect of six States in November, 2007 and for six other States in January, 2009. In the study, it has been found that the delivery mechanism of TPDS was quite effective in nine of the twelve selected States where more than 80 percent of the Below Poverty Line households obtained their entitled quantity of cereals regularly. In the selected States, majority of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana households received close to the fixed entitlement of rice and wheat (35 kg) except in the case of Assam, Bihar and Mizoram. These reports have been sent to the concerned State Governments for taking necessary remedial measures to streamline TPDS.

All State/UT Governments have been issued instructions from time to time to take proactive steps to contain rise in prices of foodgrains and essential commodities and keep the cost of intermediation under check by reducing the gap between the wholesale and retail prices by using agencies such as the State Civil Supplies Corporations, Consumer Marketing Federations, etc. for procuring non-PDS food articles in bulk for distribution to the retail consumers.

The Government has issued instructions to States/Union Territories to streamline and strengthen TPDS by strengthening monitoring and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, use of Information and Communication Technology and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

Reports on implementation of these measures are received by the Government and compiled for monitoring the functioning of TPDS.