

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:73

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010

IRREGULARITIES IN DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS

Kashyap Shri Virender; Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding irregularities in the distribution of foodgrains and other commodities and diversion of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS), Targeted Public Distribution System and Antyodaya Anna Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such complaints received during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring radical changes in PDS to make it efficient or to introduce a new system with a view to ensuring that subsidized foodgrains reach the targeted sections of the society; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the changes proposed in the system?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c) & (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.73 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 02.03.2010 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (d): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the Fair Price Shops (FPS) spread over the country rest with the State/UT Governments.

The State/UT Governments are mandated to ensure that the foodgrains allocated under the TPDS reach the targeted families and no leakages/diversions take place. 99 complaints were received in 2007, 94 in 2008 and 169 in 2009 from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports about irregularities in functioning of TPDS and diversion of foodgrains. Complaints as and when received by the Central Government are sent to concerned State/UT Governments for inquiry and appropriate remedial action.

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