

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1958

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010

FOOD COUPONS

Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether food coupons have been issued in some States by the Government under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details and salient features thereof alongwith the benefits likely to accrue therefrom;
- (c) whether the Government has made any survey/study to ascertain the effectiveness of the food coupons;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to extend this scheme to other States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of such States alongwith the criteria adopted for their selection?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (f): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The Central government has taken the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of foodgrains to the States and UTs. The operational responsibilities for lifting and distribution of allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of the functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

The Government of India has not issued food coupons under the TPDS. However, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has issued ration cards with distinct features. It has issued Iris based ration cards along with Bar coded coupons for drawal of rice and kerosene under TPDS to ensure that there is no impersonation/false accounting in distribution of essential commodities by the Fair Price Shop dealers. Jammu & Kashmir Government is issuing ration cards in a booklet form for two years containing coupons for 24 months for Sugar/Rice/Atta/Wheat/Kerosene Oil. As reported by Bihar Government, monthly food coupons separately for wheat & rice are issued to BPL and AAY families for a year in one time and food grains are distributed among these families on the basis of such coupons. Coupons linked allotment of foodgrains to PDS shops is made by the District Administration on the basis of returned coupons collected by PDS shop owners. To avoid any duplicacy, these coupons are printed on water marked paper with other security features.

Government of India has not made any survey about effectiveness of such food coupons issued by these State Governments.