

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3950  
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010  
FPS IN BACKWARD HABITATIONS  
Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to open Fair Price Shops (FPSs) outlets in Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe hamlets and isolated habitations dominated by Other Backward Classes for distribution of subsidized foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said outlets/FPS are proposed to be allocated to the youths belonging to SC/ST; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**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 (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 responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them and distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through fair price shops and supervision of the functioning of Fair Price Shops, etc., rest with the State/UT Governments.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 has been notified by the Government of India on 31st August, 2001. As provided in the PDS (Control) Order, 2001, State Governments shall issue order under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for regulating the sale and distribution of the essential commodities and also issue licenses to the Fair Price Shop owners.

Under the guidelines on the subject, State Governments should assess the coverage of areas by the network of Fair Price Shops. It is also to be ensured that no consumer/card holder has to travel more than 3 kms to reach the Fair Price Shop. In areas which cannot be covered by Static Fair Price Shops, mobile vans may be introduced to cover the consumers residing in hilly, remote, far-flung, desert, tribal and inaccessible areas.