

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:556
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010
SHORTAGE OF PDS FOODGRAINS
M.Thambidurai Dr. ;Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received complaints regarding shortage of foodgrains and its dismal quality at a number of fair price shops across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the quantity of foodgrains available for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS), State-wise;
- (c) whether some State Governments are not fully utilising the foodgrains allotments made by the Union Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor including the names of such States; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken to check such irregularities and provide foodgrains to the citizens at affordable price?

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.556 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 04.05.2010 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (e): The Government have received some complaints from individuals, organizations and through media reports on the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in various parts of the country including short supply and inferior quality of foodgrains. State-wise details are at Annex-I.

TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/ Union Territory (UT) Governments. The responsibility of lifting of the foodgrains allocated by Government of India from the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), their distribution within State/UT, supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration cardholders through fair price shops (FPS), and monitoring functioning of FPS rest with the State/UT Governments. These complaints, therefore, as and when received, are sent to the concerned State/ UT Governments and to the FCI, as may be relevant, for inquiry and appropriate remedial action.

Government of India makes allocations of foodgrains under TPDS to States/UTs at highly subsidized Central Issue Prices (CIPs) for distribution to BPL/AAY families. Accordingly, allocations of foodgrains for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) categories are made @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted 6.52 crore (including 2.43 crore AAY) families in the country. Allocations of subsidized foodgrains are also made under TPDS for Above Poverty Line (APL) families, depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool and past offtake. Presently, these allocations range between 10 kg and 35 kg per family per month in different States/UTs.

State-wise allocations of foodgrains for distribution through the Public Distribution System and offtake of foodgrains under TPDS during 2009-10 (upto February 2010) are at Annex-II. The lifting of foodgrains under TPDS have been lower in some States/UTs as against the allocation made to them. Reasons for low offtake of foodgrains in various States / UTs include local production and availability of foodgrains, resource crunch faced by States / UTs, difference between prevalent market prices and issue prices under TPDS, local food preferences of people, etc.

Functioning of FPS is regulated by State/UT Governments as per the provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001. The PDS (Control) Order 2001, among others, provides for the representatives of State /UT Governments or their nominees and the FCI to conduct joint inspection of the stocks of foodgrains intended for issue to ensure that the stocks conform to the prescribed quality specifications and the fair price shops to display samples of foodgrains being supplied for verification. For streamlining the functioning of TPDS, the Government has also directed State /UT Governments to -

- (i) review, on a continuous basis, lists of BPL and AAY families and ensure timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- (ii) improve monitoring and vigilance at various levels;

(iii) ensure greater transparency in functioning of TPDS; and

(iv) introduce new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels and smart card based delivery of essential commodities. *****