

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6290

ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010

IRREGULARITIES IN PDS

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Agarwal Shri Rajendra;Antony Shri Anto;Choudhary Shri Harish;Das Shri Bhakta Charan;Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

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

- (a) whether the Public Distribution System (PDS) has failed to achieve its objectives due to poor functioning;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number and nature of corruption cases reported in the Public Distribution System during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to strengthen the monitoring and vigilance system for PDS;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the extent to which the said measures have been implemented alongwith the success achieved therein?

Answer

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

(a) to (g): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of 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 functioning of Fair Price Shops rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

Complaints as and when received by the Central Government about malpractices in TPDS, including complaints of corruption are sent to the concerned State/UT Governments for enquiry and necessary action as per law. Statement showing details of cases received from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports about irregularities in functioning of TPDS during the last three years is at Annex-I.

In respect of malpractices detected under TPDS, the details of persons prosecuted under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (EC Act, 1955) and the persons detained under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 (PBM Act, 1980) during 2007 to 2010 are as under:

S.No. Year Persons prosecuted Persons detained
under EC Act, 1955 under PBM Act, 1980

1.	2007	4872	119
2.	2008	6425	162
3.	2009	5131	147
4.	2010	-	42
(upto 31.03.10)			

For monitoring supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, the Central Government has issued Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001. As provided under the said Order, the State and UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS and competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS by invoking provisions of clauses 8 & 9 of the said Order. Details of action taken by the State & UT Governments from January, 2007 to March, 2010 is at Annex-II.

Government has also issued directions to State Governments to streamline functioning of TPDS by enforcing provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001. Besides this, the Government has issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen Targeted Public

Distribution System (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.