

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6353

ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010

FOODGRAINS UNDER PDS

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

(a) the quantum of foodgrains and other items demanded by the States, allocated by the Union Government and actually distributed to different categories of Public Distribution System (PDS) beneficiaries during each of the last three years, Statewise;

(b) whether any complaints have been received regarding unavailability of the said commodities under the PDS; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto, Statewise including Bihar?

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 (c): Commodity-wise details are as follows:

Foodgrains:

The allocations of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are not demand based. The allocations to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families are made @ 35 kg. per family per month as per the accepted number of families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on March 2000 population estimates of the Registrar General of India or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by State/UT Governments, whichever is less.

The allocations for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made depending upon the availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. State-wise details of the allocations and offtake of foodgrains under TPDS during the last three years are as per Annex-I.

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 non-availability of foodgrains. State-wise details of such complaints including Bihar are at Annex-II.

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 for inquiry and appropriate remedial action.

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.

Kerosene:

Kerosene (SKO) is one of the items distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS). Allocation of PDS SKO is made by the Government of India to different States/UTs on a quarterly basis for distribution under PDS for cooking and illumination purpose only. Further distribution within States/UTs through the PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs. The scale of distribution of PDS SKO per card holder varies from State to State. State-wise details of PDS SKO allocation and offtake during the last three years are at Annex-III. There is no shortage of kerosene reported in any part of the country during the current financial year.

LEVY SUGAR:

The Central Government allocates levy sugar to all the States/UTs including Bihar as per the levy sugar quota fixed by the Central Government. The responsibility of distribution of sugar through the Public Distribution System and maintain smooth operation of PDS in the State lies with the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. A statement showing State-wise levy sugar quota supplied under PDS during last three years is at Annex - IV. The details of actual lifting of levy sugar against the allocations made by Central Government is not available.