

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:24

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010

FOOD COUPONS

Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias;Semmalai Shri S.

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

- (a) whether system of issuing food coupons for disbursement of foodgrains has been introduced in some states;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and benefits accrued therefrom ;
- (c) whether the Union Government has impressed upon the States to run similar schemes for disbursing foodgrains in the remaining States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.24 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27-07-2010 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (d): Only a few States/Union Territories (UTs) have introduced food coupons, some only on a pilot basis. Government of Andhra Pradesh has issued Bar coded coupons for drawal of rice and kerosene under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to ensure that there is no impersonation/false accounting in distribution of essential commodities by the Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers. Arunachal Pradesh Government has initiated coupon system on an experimental basis in Tirap District. Coupons are issued to beneficiaries at the time of issuance / renewal of ration cards. The next month's allocation is based on the coupons submitted by the FPS dealer. Jammu & Kashmir Government is issuing ration cards in a booklet form for two years containing coupons for 24 months. As reported by Government of Bihar, monthly food coupons are issued to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families for a year and food grains are distributed to families on the basis of such coupons.

In the Conference of Food Secretaries of States and UTs held on 12th and 13-07-2010, various initiatives taken by States/UTs were presented, including the issue of food coupons. Among other measures, it was resolved to give a fillip to IT based initiatives through computerization of the TPDS and introduction of Smart Card based delivery of foodgrains to further strengthen & streamline TPDS.