

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:377
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010
CORRUPTION IN PDS
Jagannath Dr. M.;Kumar Shri P.

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

- (a) whether a study/review by Justice D.P. Wadhwa and other bodies have indicated large scale corruption in the Public Distribution System/ Targeted Public Distribution System and existence of large number of fake ration cards leading to a huge loss of food subsidy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

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): Central Vigilance Committee headed by Justice D.P. Wadhwa and other evaluation studies by Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of Planning Commission, ORG MARG and NCAER got done by this Department have referred to certain deficiencies/shortcomings in the functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which includes inclusion/exclusion errors, diversion and leakages.

The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. Since 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 (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Government, these reports have been sent to the respective State/UT Governments for necessary action.

Based on findings of these studies, a 9-point action plan evolved for strengthening TPDS is under implementation by State/UT Governments since July, 2006. As part of this action plan, State and UT Governments have been directed to continuously review lists of BPL and AAY families to eliminate bogus ration cards so that only eligible BPL and AAY families be covered under TPDS. As a result of such review, 23 State/UT Governments have reported by 30-06-2010, detection and deletion of 174.10 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards.

Besides, the Government has issued instructions to States/UTs to streamline and strengthen TPDS by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increasing transparency in functioning of TPDS, use of information and communication technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.