

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:510

ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009

BLACK MARKETING OF FOOD GRAINS

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

- (a) whether commodities meant for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) are being sold openly in the black market;
- (b) if so, the number of such incidents reported during each of the last three years and the current year State-wise;
- (c) the details of the persons including officials found involved therein; and
- (d) the details regarding the nature of action taken against the said officials?

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): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/UT Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible BPL & AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the fair price shops rest with the State / UT Governments.

Complaints as and when received by Government from individuals and organizations, as well as through press reports about leakages/diversion of TPDS commodities are sent to concerned State Governments for inquiry and action.

(b),(c)&(d): In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified on August 31, 2001, which mandates the State and UT Governments to carryout all remedial action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS in the States/UTs. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of this Order is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

During the last three years (2006, 2007 and 2008) for various malpractices noticed in functioning of TPDS, States/UT Governments have reported arrests/prosecution of 15,553 persons under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Out of these, separate details on Government officials are not available. Further, detention orders in 442 cases were passed by the State Governments/UT Administrations during this period under provisions of the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.