

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3798

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010

MONITORING OF PDS

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

- (a) the present mechanism for monitoring of the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up a stringent monitoring system for the Public Distribution System;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government has also urged the State Governments to set up such a system to monitor the implementation of the PDS; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Governments thereto?

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 (e): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. Government has been continuously taking steps to strengthen the TPDS by improving its efficiency. Government got evaluation studies done by the TPDS by PEO (Planning Commission), ORG-MARG and National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). Certain shortcomings were pointed out in these evaluation reports. In view of these reports, to strengthen the TPDS and to curb leakages & diversion of foodgrains meant for TPDS, in consultation with State and UT Governments, the Government evolved a 9-point Action Plan in 2006. This includes measures such as review of BPL and AAY lists for exclusion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families, ensuring leakages free distribution by taking penal action against those found indulging in malpractices, involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in functioning of Fair Price Shop (FPS), display of BPL and AAY lists at FPS, door step delivery of PDS commodities to FPSs, etc. The Action Plan is under implementation in States and UTs since July, 2006 and is being closely monitored by FPS level Vigilance Committees.

The Government has taken various other measures to improve functioning of the TPDS. A Revised Citizens Charter has been issued and is being implemented since July, 2007. Monthly certification of delivery of allocated foodgrains to FPS and their distribution to ration card holders has been introduced from April, 2008. Training programmes for TPDS functionaries and awareness campaign for TPDS beneficiaries are being taken up. Computerization of TPDS operations has been initiated. Use of new technologies such as Global Positioning System to monitor movement of foodgrains under TPDS has been undertaken on a pilot basis. Policy guidelines have also been issued on distribution of wheat flour under the TPDS, so that the poor families are benefited. For increasing awareness on TPDS, publicity-cum-awareness campaign is also being taken up.

A conference to share the Best Practices and Reforms in TPDS was also held recently on 12th and 13th July, 2010 wherein various issues were discussed. These issues relate among others to proper identification of beneficiaries, timely distribution of foodgrains, enhancing viability of fair price shops, enhancing storage capacities, use of technology based initiatives in TPDS and increasing public awareness.