

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3836
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010
REFORM IN PDS
Jagannath Dr. M.

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

- (a) whether the Government has prepared a special plan for the reform and improvement in the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has elicited suggestions from the States for improvement in the PDS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the suggestions received from the States?

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 (d): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of Central Government and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for lifting and distributing the allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible card holders through the fair price shops (FPSs) are that of the State/UT Governments.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at FPSs, ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels.

In the Conference of Food Secretaries of States and UTs on Best Practices and Reforms in TPDS held on 12th & 13th July, 2010, various issues relating to TPDS were discussed and it was resolved, among others, to ensure proper identification of beneficiaries, timely distribution of foodgrains, increase viability of FPSs, enhancing storage capacities, use of technology based initiatives in TPDS and increase public awareness.