

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:152
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
FAIR PRICE SHOP
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a scheme for setting up of at least one Fair Price Shop (FPS) under the Public Distribution System in every village across the country including Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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 (b): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through Fair Price Shops and supervision of the functioning of Fair Price Shops, etc., rest with the State/UT Governments.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 has been notified by the Government of India on 31st August, 2001. As provided in the PDS (Control) Order, 2001, State Governments shall issue order under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for regulating the sale and distribution of the essential commodities and also issue licenses to the Fair Price Shop owners.

Under the guidelines on the subject, State Governments should assess the coverage of areas by the network of Fair Price Shops. It is also to be ensured that no consumer/card holder has to travel more than 3 kms to reach the Fair Price Shop. In areas which cannot be covered by Static Fair Price Shops, mobile vans may be introduced to cover the consumers residing in hilly, remote, far-flung, desert, tribal and inaccessible areas.