

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:19
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
FOODGRAIN DISTRIBUTION
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to allow some other institutions equipped with better capacity to handle food distribution in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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): With a view to specifically target poor sections of society for distribution of subsidized foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarse grains) and sugar, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in 1997. 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 of the State/UT Governments.

Under TPDS, foodgrains @ 35 kg. per family, per month are allocated to States/Union Territories for 6.52 crore BPL/AAY families for distribution at subsidized prices through Fair Price Shops. Depending upon their availability in central pool, foodgrains are also allocated to Above Poverty Line (APL) families. Presently, the allocations for APL category range between 15 and 35 kg foodgrains per family per month.

There is no proposal before the Government to entrust TPDS to other institutions.