

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2180
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2010
SHORTCOMINGS IN PDS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether recommendations/ suggestions have been received to dismantle the present Public Distribution System (PDS) for better implementation of the proposed Food Security Law;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government has worked out an alternate mode of distribution to check the shortcomings noticed in the present PDS; and
- (d) 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 (d): With a view to specifically target poor sections of society for distribution of subsidized foodgrains (rice, wheat and coarse grains) and sugar, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in 1997.

Evaluation studies on functioning of TPDS got done by the Department from ORG MARG, Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission and National Council of Applied Economic Research have revealed certain shortcomings in functioning of TPDS such as inclusion/exclusion errors, leakages/diversion of foodgrains, etc. 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 Fair Price Shops (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.

The proposed National Food Security law envisages entitling every Below Poverty Line (BPL) family to a certain quantity of foodgrains per month at subsidized prices. There is no proposal to dismantle the TPDS for better implementation of the proposed Food Security law. The proposed law will be used to bring about broader systemic reforms in the Public Distribution System (PDS).