

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:65

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011

DIVERSION OF FOODGRAINS

Abdulrahman Shri ;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether the foodgrains meant for poor people under the Public Distribution System (PDS) is being diverted to the open market or smuggled to some neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has sought information from the States in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the total quantity of foodgrains diverted or smuggled during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure that foodgrains allocated to the States for public distribution is not diverted to the open market or smuggled to other countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (e): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. 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 allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

There have been reports about diversion of foodgrains under TPDS. However, accurate assessment of quantities of diversion of TPDS foodgrains is not available.

State and UT Governments have been directed in July 2006 to implement 9-point action plan for streamlining working of TPDS.

Government has regularly reviewed and also has issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter and use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools.

To prevent smuggling of foodgrains and other items from India, Department of Revenue (Ministry of Finance) and the Security Forces deployed at the borders maintain vigil at international borders and take required preventive action.