

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:81
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2011
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay ;Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao

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

- (a) whether the Public Distribution System (PDS) in certain regions/ States in the country has been affected by rampant corruption/irregularities;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number of corruption cases including leakages, diversions and black marketing of foodgrains reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has issued any directives/instructions to the States to weed out corruption/diversion and to plug loopholes in the PDS;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken by the Government to strengthen PDS?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 81 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 01.03.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) to (f): 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 irregularities in implementation of TPDS in certain regions/States in the country. As and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they have been sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. A statement indicating State-wise number of complaints on TPDS received in the department from 2008 to 2011 (upto January, 2011) is at Annexure-I.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified on August 31, 2001 which mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of this Order is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. State and UT Governments have been directed in July 2006 to implement 9-point Action Plan for streamlining working of TPDS. Utilisation Certificates (UCs) for the foodgrains allocated to State Government are obtained regularly from the State Governments.

Reports are being sought periodically from State/UT Governments regarding irregularities in TPDS and action taken on such cases by them. State-wise details of action taken by States/UTs under PDS (Control) Order, 2001 is at Annexure-II. Further, instructions have been issued to all States/UTs to take action as per law against the families/persons found in possession of bogus/ineligible ration cards. As a result, States/UTs have reported deletion of 208.57 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards from July, 2006 onwards. A statement showing State-wise number of bogus / ineligible rations cards deleted by the State/UT Governments is at Annexure-III.

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 use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.