

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3184

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011

STRENGTHENING OF PDS

Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil;Das Shri Bhakta Charan;Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay ;Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Ram Shri Purnmasi;Sanjoy Shri Takam;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Baba Shri K.C.;Singh Rajkumari Ratna;Singh Shri Dhananjay ;Singh Shri Ijyaraj ;Singh Shri Yashvir;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints that the Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the country are not getting foodgrains and other items under Public Distribution System (PDS) due to deficiencies in the system, large scale diversions and lack of updated data;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken to remove such deficiencies and strengthen the PDS;
- (c) the action taken against those held responsible for irregularities in PDS;
- (d) the details of mechanism in place to monitor PDS/complaints of irregularities in the system;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to replace the present system with an alternative system to provide hassle free food security to the poor;and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Government provides foodgrains to States/UTs for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg. per family per month at subsidized prices. Allocation to Above Poverty Line (APL) families is made on the basis of availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and the past off-take. Presently, the allocation of foodgrains for APL category ranges between 10 kg. and 35 kg. per family per month.

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 are sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

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.

As provided under the said Order, the State and UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS and competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS by invoking provisions of clauses 8 & 9 of the said Order. State Governments/UT Administrations have reported action taken such as issue of show cause notice, lodging of FIRs, suspension/ cancellation of FPS licences, arrest, prosecution/ conviction etc.

TPDS was introduced in June 1997 with a view to target the poor sections of the society. Strengthening/ Streamlining of the TPDS is a continuous process. 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 food grains allocated to State Government are obtained regularly from the State Governments. 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.

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.