

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3292  
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009  
IRREGULARITIES IN ALLOTMENT OF FOOD ITEMS  
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether the incidences of irregularities in the allotment of food items to the consumers through the Public Distribution System (PDS) have been reported from some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the guidelines issued to the States by the Government to reform and strengthen the existing procedure for allotment of food items to the consumers?

**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)&(b): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/UT Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible BPL & AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the fair price shops rest with the State/UT Governments.

Complaints as and when received by Government from individuals and organizations, as well as through press reports about irregularities in functioning of TPDS are sent to concerned State Governments for inquiry and appropriate action.

(c): 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 carryout 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 stipulated under PDS (Control) Order 2001, reports are obtained from state governments on their monitoring of TPDS under clause 8 and penal action taken under clause 9 for malpractices noticed. Reports in Form 'C' are obtained on distribution of foodgrains and status of ration cards. Utilisation Certificates (UCs) for the foodgrains allocated to State Governments are obtained regularly from the State Governments. Review meetings are held with Food Secretaries of state governments on functioning of the TPDS. Area Officers of this Department also visit the States to monitor the functioning of TPDS in the States.

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

Further, to improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State & UT Governments for –

- (i) continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- (ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;
- (iii) improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels; and
- (iv) introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities.