

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:36

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011

IRREGULARITIES IN PDS

Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints of large scale irregularities in the Public Distribution System (PDS) in connivance with the personnel of PDS and Fair Price Shop owners;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon, State-wise;
- (c) whether any action plan has been prepared for strengthening and improving the working of PDS;and
- (d) 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), (b), (c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 36 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA

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 responsibility for allocation and distribution 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) rests with the concerned State/UT Government.

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. A statement indicating State-wise number of complaints on TPDS received in the department from 2008 to 2011 (upto June, 2011) is at Annexure-I.

For monitoring supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, the Central Government issued Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, under which the State and UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS and are competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS by invoking provisions of clauses 8 & 9 of the said Order. State-wise details of action taken in last three years and the current year upto June, 2011 is at Annexure - II.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. Government has regularly reviewed and has also 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.