

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1473
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
COMMISSION FOR RATION SHOP OWNERS
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

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

- (a) the number of Public Distribution System (PDS) ration shops in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to pay salary and to increase the commission of the PDS ration shop owners;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the commission paid to ration shop owners in the States is not uniform;
- (e) if so, the details of the rate of commission paid to them, State-wise; and
- (f) the reasons and rationale for difference in rate of commission?

Answer

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

(a): The total number of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country as reported by States/Union Territories (UTs) upto 30.6.2011 are 5,05,879. The State wise details thereof are given in the statement at Annexure-I.

(b) to (f): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of Central Government and State/UT Governments. The 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 lifting and distributing the allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible card holders through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are of the State/UT Governments.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, has been notified by the Government of India on 31st August, 2001. This order, inter-alia, provides that State Governments shall issue an order under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act for regulating the sale and distribution of essential commodities. The licenses to the fair price shop owners shall be issued under the said order and shall lay down the duties and responsibilities of the fair price shop owner.

Since 2001, State/UT Governments have been given the flexibility in the matter of fixing the margin for the Fair Price Shops (FPSs). The rates of commission to FPS owners are, therefore, to be determined by the respective States/UTs. Each State depending on their policies have fixed rates of commission to FP Shop dealers. The details of rates of commission given to FPS owners, as reported by State/UT Governments from time to time, are enclosed as Annexure – II.