

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4526
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
FOOD COUPONS
Punia Shri P.L.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to launch Food Coupons to strengthen the Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the said system is likely to be implemented; and
- (d) the States where the said system have already been launched alongwith the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of Central Government and State/Union Territory (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.

As a part of reforms in TPDS, some States/UTs are issuing smart cards, food coupons, barcoded ration cards, etc for the delivery of TPDS commodities to the beneficiaries. These are at various stages of implementation.