

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5298  
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011  
IMPLEMENTATION OF PDS  
Shantha J.

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

(a) whether the Government has urged the States to ensure effective implementation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) so as to control prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): With a view to specifically target poor sections of society, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in 1997. Under TPDS, foodgrains @ 35 kg. per family per month are allocated to States/Union Territories for 6.52 crore accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families for distribution at subsidized prices through Fair Price Shops. Allocation of foodgrains are also made to Above Poverty Line (APL) families depending upon the availability of foodgrains in central pool and past offtake. Presently, the allocations of foodgrains to APL families range between 15 kg and 35 kg per family per month.

To control food inflation, the Government has from time to time made adhoc additional allocation of foodgrains under TPDS. It has also made allocations of rice and wheat for Other Welfare Schemes such as Mid-Day Meals Schemes, ICDS, Annapurna, Welfare Institutions, SC/ST/OBC Hostels, etc and for festivals and for natural calamity reliefs to States/UTs.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels.