

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5359
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011
NUTRITIOUS DIET UNDER PDS
Punia Shri P.L.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to include new nutritious items under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said items are likely to be included under the PDS; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Government allocates wheat, rice, coarse grains, sugar and kerosene to State/Union Territory (UT) Governments for distribution to the eligible beneficiaries. There is no proposal at present to include new nutritious food items under the TPDS.

However, State/UT Governments have been advised that Fair Price Shop (FPS) owners should be encouraged to enlarge the basket of commodities by adding non-PDS items for sale through these outlets. Some of the State/UTs like Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, etc. have reported distribution of non-PDS items like pulses, edible oils, iodized salt, spices, etc. through PDS outlets.