

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:475

ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011

PULSES UNDER PDS

Mahato Shri Narahari; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

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

- (a) whether the Government has received requests/suggestions to include more items including edible oils and pulses under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the steps taken thereon; and
- (d) the other steps taken to streamline PDS?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 475 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 06.09.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (d): Government allocates wheat, rice, coarse grains, sugar and kerosene to States/ Union Territory (UT) Governments for distribution to the eligible beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). There is no proposal at present to include additional items such as edible oils and pulses under TPDS. However, State/UT Governments have been advised that the Fair Price Shops (FPS) owners should be encouraged to enlarge the basket of commodities by adding non-PDS items for sale through these outlets. Some State/UT Governments are distributing items like pulses, edible oils, iodized salt, spices etc. through Fair Price Shops.

Government has implemented a scheme for distribution of imported edible oils since 2008-09 with a subsidy of Rs.15/- per kg. through State Government at a rate of 1 litre per ration card per month. The State Governments/UTs may distribute the subsidized edible oils through PDS shops/ other outlets as decided by them and may restrict the distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families or cover Above Poverty Line (APL) families as well, depending upon the availability and the distribution logistics. The Government has extended the scheme during 2009-10, 2010-11 and in current year upto 30.09.2011. Government has also taken up a scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs.10/- kg for distribution to BPL families @ 1 kg per month since November 2008. The Scheme is valid upto 31.03.2012.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. In consultation with the State/UT Governments, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which inter-alia includes continuous review of BPL/AAY list and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards along with strict action to be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. To improve functioning of TPDS, States/UTs have also been advised to ensure timely availability of foodgrains at FPSs, 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.