

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:273
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011
LEAKAGES IN PDS
Antony Shri Anto; Joshi Shri Mahesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified the points in the Public Distribution System chain where losses due to diversion/leakages are high;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such cases reported and the estimated losses suffered thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated an information technology based computerisation of PDS and introduced alternative modes of transfer of food subsidy to check such cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein; and
- (e) the other steps taken to check diversion/corruption in PDS indicating the number of persons against whom action have been taken for corrupt practices during the said period?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.273 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 13.12.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) to (e): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibility for allocation and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

Evaluation studies on implementation of TPDS have indicated shortcomings including leakages/diversion of foodgrains under TPDS. The reports received were sent to the State Governments/UT administrations concerned for remedial measures to remove the deficiencies noticed in the functioning of TPDS. Complaints received by the Central Government about implementation of TPDS are also sent to the State Governments/UT administrations concerned for inquiry and necessary action. However, specific assessment of the number of such cases, losses suffered thereon, etc. at various points in the supply chain is not available.

Strengthening and streamlining the TPDS is a continuous process. Pilot schemes on Computerisation of TPDS and Smart Card based delivery of essential commodities had been taken up. Some States/UTs have reported issuance of smart cards, food coupons, barcoded ration cards, etc for the delivery of TPDS commodities to the beneficiaries, which will help in checking leakages/diversion of foodgrains. Government of India has also requested all States/UTs to take up end-to-end computerization of TPDS in a time-bound manner to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the TPDS.

Government has regularly reviewed and has issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen functioning of TPDS by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

Action is being taken by States/UTs against persons/officials for contravention of the provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001. The number of such persons/officials against whom action has been reported by the State Governments/UT Administrations in last three years and the current year is as below:

Year	No of persons/officials against whom punitive action taken
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2008	5409	
2009	5162	
2010	7424	
2011 (upto August, 2011)	951	