

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4339
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011
IMPLEMENTATION OF PDS BY STATES
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

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

- (a) whether some States of the country have been found to be doing an excellent and commendable work in the field of implementation of the public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of such States;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to give award/has awarded such States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to introduce similar arrangements in other States;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (g): 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.

Several initiatives for strengthening the TPDS have been taken by States/UTs. In the Conference of State Food Secretaries & other officials on Best Practices and Reforms in TPDS held in July 2010, measures being taken by States/UTs for streamlining the TPDS were shared amongst the participants. These, inter-alia, relate to proper identification of beneficiaries, timely distribution of foodgrains, enhancing viability of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), enhancing storage capacities, use of technology based initiatives in TPDS, increasing public awareness, etc. However, there is no proposal for giving awards for such initiatives.