

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1108  
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012  
SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS AT FPS  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether there is a persistent shortage of foodgrains at several Fair Price Shops (FPS) in various States and its quality is also very poor;
- (b) if so, whether some State Governments are not fully utilising Central grain allotments;
- (c) if so, the names of the States which are not fully utilising Central grain allotments alongwith the reasons cited by these States; and
- (d) the action taken by the Union Government against such States?

**Answer**

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

(a): 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 Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are of the State/UT Governments.

There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of TPDS in certain regions/States in the country, including shortage of foodgrains, supply of poor quality foodgrains, etc. As and when complaints regarding shortage of foodgrains at FPSs are received by the Government, they have been sent to the State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. As regards the complaints regarding supply of poor quality foodgrains under TPDS, the complaints are investigated and appropriate action, including disciplinary action, is taken against the erring officials and instructions are also issued to the State Government for ensuring supply of good quality foodgrains.

(b)to(d): Details of allocation & offtake of foodgrains, including adhoc additional allocations, made to States/UTs under TPDS during 2010-11 & current year are Annexed. While the offtake has been better in the case of normal TPDS allocations, there has been lower offtake in the case of adhoc additional allocations made during 2010-11 and 2011-12 as may be seen from the enclosed offtake statements.

Lower offtake in some States could be on account of problems in absorption of the additional allocations due to additional subsidy required to be borne by them, short placement of stocks at some Food Corporation of India (FCI) Depots, among others.

Several measures have been taken to increase and improve the offtake of allocations made under TPDS. The annual allocations of foodgrains are made to States/UTs at the beginning of the year. States/UTs are allowed to lift allocated foodgrains in advance of upto six months' ration under TPDS in one go. Requests from States/UTs for extension of validity period are also considered expeditiously. The issue of providing adequate rail rakes has also been taken up with Railways from time to time. Government of India has also been regularly reviewing the implementation of TPDS functioning including lifting of foodgrains by States/UTs by holding Conferences, review meetings and issuing advisories to States/UTs to lift maximum quantity of the allocated foodgrains.