

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7539
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012
HANDLING OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to allow institutions with better capacity to handle food distribution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposals in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): 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 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) belong to the State/UT Governments.

There is no proposal before the Government to allow other institutions to handle food distribution under TPDS.