

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7573
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012
QUALITY OF FOODGRAINS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether complaints regarding the quality and the quantity of foodgrains and other items distributed under the public distribution system have increased during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to constitute vigilance committees to act upon such complaints;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government has held discussions with the State Governments and consumer organisations to pave the way for the constitution of the said vigilance committees; and
- (e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : complaints received in the Department of Food & Public Distribution about poor quality of foodgrains issued for supply under Public Distribution System (PDS) / Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) indicate that these have not increased in the last three years.

(c),(d) & (e): Public Distribution System is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains up to the designated depots of Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPS) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

Guidelines have been issued in June 1999 for involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the implementation of TPDS wherein it has been suggested that Gram Panchayat, Gram Sabhas should be encouraged to form Vigilance Committees at the level of Fair Price Shops. The PDS(Control) Order,2001 also stipulates formation of Vigilance Committees on TPDS by the States/UT Governments concerned at the level of FPS, Block/Mandal/Taluk, District, State in most of the States and UTs. The main function of these Vigilance Committees is to monitor and ensure smooth functioning of TPDS and redressal of problems related with it. The performance of the Vigilance committees and PRIs involved in the functioning of TPDS is reviewed by the respective State/UT Governments.