

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:80  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012  
STRENGTHENING OF PDS  
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal;Singh Shri Ijyaraj

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken for strengthening the Public Distribution System (PDS) after an evaluation in 2005 had indicated large scale diversion along with the success achieved therein;
- (b) whether the Government has recently received complaints of corruption in PDS including diversion and prevalence of fake cards;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps taken to check corruption and strengthen the PDS;
- (d) whether the Government has issued directives to the States for strengthening the PDS; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto?

**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. 80 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 14.08.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) As the evaluation reports on Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by Programme Evaluation Organisation(PEO), Planning Commission and ORG MARG in 2005, indicated high levels of diversion/leakages of food grains under TPDS, exclusion and inclusion errors in identification of BPL and AAY families, a nine-point Action Plan was evolved in July, 2006. Details of the action taken by States/UTs under the nine point Action Plan as reported upto 30.06.2012 are at Annex.

Government has regularly reviewed and has issued instructions to States/UTs 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.

(b) to (e): There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of TPDS including diversion/leakages of foodgrains, prevalence of bogus/ineligible ration cards, etc. in some regions/States in the country. As and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State Governments /UT Administrations concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

Further, to improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding conferences wherein State/UT Governments are requested for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS and improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, monthly certification of foodgrains at FPS etc.

Government 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. Some States/UTs have also reported issuance of smart cards, food coupons, bar-coded ration cards, etc for the delivery of TPDS commodities to the beneficiaries, which will also help in checking leakages/diversion of foodgrains.