

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:71  
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012  
STRENGTHENING OF PDS  
Adityanath Shri Yogi;Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad

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

- (a) whether various reports/assessments have indicated that the implementation of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in various States/regions has been below satisfactory level and its stated objectives have not been fully realised;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the number of cases of corruption, leakages, bogus cards etc. reported during each of the last three years along with the remedial steps taken in this regard, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has chalked out an action plan for strengthening/streamlining of PDS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the status of its implementation and the success achieved therein; and
- (e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen/streamline PDS in various States?

**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. 71 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27.11.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) to (e) : Evaluation studies on functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) have been conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) (2006-09) and Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) (2007-11). These studies have revealed certain shortcomings/deficiencies in the functioning of TPDS such as inclusion/exclusion errors, leakages/diversion of foodgrains, etc. (details as per Annex I to IV). Copies of these reports have been forwarded to the States/UTs concerned for taking necessary remedial measures to remove the deficiencies noticed in the functioning of TPDS.

However, in an independent study conducted recently by a group of research scholars and student volunteers, including Mr. Jean Dreze, Reetika Khera and others (2011), it has been stated that there has been an impressive revival of PDS across the country during the recent years. The group have based their findings on a study made in 106 randomly-selected villages, spread over two districts each in 9 States. Based on the survey made in May-June 2011, the researchers have brought out that there have been major initiatives in the recent past to improve PDS and these efforts are showing results. It has been also mentioned that the days when up to half of the PDS grain was diverted to the open market are gone.

Further, there have been complaints about irregularities in implementation of TPDS including instances of corruption, leakages of foodgrains, prevalence of bogus / ineligible ration cards, etc. in some States/regions in the country. A statement indicating number of such complaints received during the last three years is at Annex - V. 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.

In consultation with the State Governments / UT Administrations, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006 to curb leakages/diversions of foodgrains. The Nine Point Action Plan inter-alia includes continuous review of Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards. Instructions were also issued to all State/UT Governments to carry out an intensive campaign to review the existing lists of BPL/AAY families and eliminate ineligible/bogus ration cards. A statement indicating number of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted by the State / UT Governments during the last three years is at Annex - VI.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. 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, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations. Details of the action taken under the Nine Point Action Plan as reported by the States/UTs up to 30.09.2012 is at Annex - VII.