

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:769
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012
MONITORING OF PDS
De Dr. Ratna;Rajendran Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has any monitoring mechanism in place to monitor the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the said mechanism along with the duties allocated to the officers thereunder;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted any task force to oversee the monitoring mechanism of PDS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the monitoring mechanism?

Answer

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

(a) to (b): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented under joint responsibility of Central Government and State/UT Governments. Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of this Order is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Utilisation Certificates (UCs) for the foodgrains allocated to State Government are obtained regularly from the State Governments. Review meetings, conferences, etc are also held from time to time with State/UT Governments on functioning of the TPDS.

Further, as part of the mechanism to monitor the implementation of TPDS in States/UTs, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in July, 2006. The Nine Point Action Plan inter-alia includes continuous review of Below Poverty line (BPL)/ Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists to eliminate the bogus ration cards, taking strict action against the guilty, leakage free distribution of foodgrains, involvement of elected Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members in distribution of foodgrains, allotting Fair Price Shop (FPS) to Self help groups, gram panchayats, cooperatives, etc, display of BPL/AAY lists on all FPSs, door-step delivery of foodgrains wherever possible, computerization of TPDS operations, etc.

(c) to (d): No, Madam