

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:254
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
Jindal Shri Naveen;Pakirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) the total number of ration cards issued and Fair Price Shops operational in the country along with the quantum of various commodities allocated under the Public Distribution System (PDS) during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether any mechanism is available for redressal of grievances of the consumers under the PDS;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the number and status of complaints received during the said period, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of PDS?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 254 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 11.12.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) As reported by State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations upto 30.09.2012, 24.28 crore ration cards have been issued for various categories of beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and 5,13,524 Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are operational in the country. State-wise details of various commodities namely, foodgrains, sugar & kerosene oil allocated under TPDS during the last three years and the current year are at Annex-I (A to D).

(b) and (c): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments/UT Administrations wherein the operational responsibility for implementation of TPDS within the States/UTs including attending to the grievances of consumers rests with the State/UT concerned.

Further, in order to maintain supplies and secure availability and distribution of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955), the Central Government has notified Public Distribution System(Control) Order, 2001 on 31.8.2001. The Order inter-alia provides for appointment of an authority by the State Government not below the rank of Inspector in the State Government dealing with Food and Civil Supplies whose details are also to be displayed prominently by the FPS owner as the authority for redressal of grievances/lodging complaints. Further, all States/UTs have also been requested to set up a grievance redressal mechanism for PDS as part of the computerisation of PDS, toll-free helpline numbers etc.

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. State/UT-wise statement indicating number of such complaints received during the last three years and the current year is at Annex-II.

(d) Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. 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 Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at FPSs, ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS and improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, monthly certification of foodgrains at FPS etc.