

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2791
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
REFORMS OF PDS
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

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

- (a) the amount of food subsidy granted to each State and the amount lost/leaked due to ghost/fake cards and other reasons during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the present status of implementation of Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms indicating the number of fake cards detected and eliminated and the amount of subsidy saved as a result thereof; and
- (c) the other steps taken to reform PDS and save food subsidy?

Answer

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

- (a) : Food subsidy is released by the Central Government to Food Corporation of India (FCI) and De-centralised Procurement (DCP) States. A statement indicating amount of food subsidy released during the last three years and the current year is at Annex. Evaluation studies on implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) got conducted by the Department from time to time have indicated varying estimates of leakages/diversion of TPDS commodities, inclusion/exclusion errors, etc. However, no specific information regarding the amount lost/leaked due to ghost/fake cards is available in this Department.
- (b) : In consultation with the State/UT Governments, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which inter-alia includes continuous review of Below Poverty Line (BPL)/ Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists and elimination of bogus/ineligible ration cards. Instructions were also issued to all State/UT Governments to carry out an intensive campaign from October, 2009 to December, 2009 to review the existing lists of BPL/AAY families and eliminate ineligible/bogus ration cards. As a result thereof, 27 State/UT Governments have reported by 30.09.2012, deletion of 318.50 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards. However, an accurate assessment of amount of subsidy saved on this account is not available.
- (c): 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 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, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, monthly certification of foodgrains at FPS etc.