

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:35
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
CORRUPTION IN PDS TPDS AAY
Deshmukh Shri K. D.;Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints/reports regarding irregularities and corruption in the functioning of the Public Distribution System/Targetted Public Distribution System/Antyodaya Anna Yojana during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the complaints/reports received and the action taken thereon, State-wise;
- (c) whether any assessment/review of the said schemes has been carried out by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (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. 35 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 26.02.2013 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) and (b) There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in some States/regions 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. A State/UT-wise statement indicating number of such complaints received during the last three years and current year is at Annex-I.

(c) and (d) Evaluation studies on functioning of TPDS are conducted from time to time. Studies by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) (survey conducted during 2006-08) and Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) (survey conducted during 2007-08) have revealed certain shortcomings/deficiencies in the functioning of TPDS such as inclusion/exclusion errors, leakages/diversion of foodgrains, etc. Details are given at Annex II to V. 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.

Further, in an independent study conducted by a group of research scholars and student volunteers, including Mr. Jean Dreze, Reetika Khara 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.

(e) 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 viability of Fair Price Shop operations.