

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:391
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
MORE ITEMS UNDER PDS
Das Shri Ram Sundar

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

- (a) whether the Government has received requests/suggestions regarding inclusion of more items viz. edible oils and pulses etc., under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps taken thereon;and
- (c) the other measures taken to streamline PDS?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Central Government allocates foodgrains (rice and wheat) and sugar to the States/Union Territories for distribution to the eligible beneficiaries through Fair Price Shops (FPSs). Government of India also allocates coarsegrains such as Jowar, Bajra, etc. to States/UTs under TPDS considering the local food preference, requests of State Governments and the availability of stocks in Central Pool. Suggestions have been received from time to time for inclusion of items such as pulses, edible oils etc. in TPDS. However, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present. In this regard, State/UT Governments have been encouraged to enlarge the basket of commodities by adding non-PDS items for sale through FPSs. Some of the States/UTs have reported distribution of non-PDS items like pulses, edible oils, iodized salt, spices, etc. through PDS outlets.

(c) 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.