

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3566

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013

MOBILE FPS

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

- (a) whether the Government has introduced mobile fair price shops facility in some States especially in remote/tribal areas so that the benefits of public distribution system may be provided to these remote and tribal areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the names of States where this facility has been started;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend this facility to other States also; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

Government has not introduced mobile fair price shop facility. However, under the guidelines issued by the Department for strengthening of PDS, States/UTs are to ensure that no consumer /card holder has to travel more than 3 kms to reach his FPS. As per the guidelines, in areas which cannot be covered by static fair price shops, mobile vans may be introduced to cover the consumers residing in hilly remote, far-flung, desert, tribal and inaccessible areas. The guidelines include provision of sales centre at weekly Haats to provide essential commodities at fixed prices in some rural areas, particularly in Tribal Areas which will be a great boon to consumers of these areas.