

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1975
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009
FOOD SECURITY
Lal Shri Kirodi

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

- (a) whether a meeting of Food Secretaries of different States was held recently in New Delhi to discuss food security and the modalities to identify the poor under the food security schemes;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the foodgrains under the food security schemes are not being distributed properly; and
- (d) if so, the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)to(d): A meeting of State and Union Territory (UT) Food Secretaries was held in New Delhi on 10.06.2009 to discuss different issues covered in the concept note circulated to them relating to the proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA). The State/UT Food Secretaries shared the views of their respective State/UT Governments on provisions of the proposed law. Further details of the proposed NFSA are being examined by Government.

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under joint responsibility of Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible BPL families, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision and monitoring of functioning of fair price shops (FPS), rest with the concerned State / UT Governments.

In order to improve functioning of the TPDS, Government has directed State and UT Governments to take various measures such as strengthening monitoring and vigilance, ensuring increased transparency in the functioning of TPDS, use of information and communication tools, and improving efficiency of FPS operations.