

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:408

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013

IRREGULARITIES UNDER PDS

Lal Shri Kirodi ;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether several irregularities including diversion of Public Distribution System (PDS) foodgrains, prevalence of fake cards, supply of poor quality foodgrains and charging of high price have been reported during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard indicating the number of cases reported and the losses suffered as a result thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide additional items under the PDS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.408 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 23.04.2013 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) and (b) There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in some States/regions in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, 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/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

A State/UT-wise statement indicating number of such complaints received during the last three years and the current year is Annexed. However, the losses suffered in respect of irregularities

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.

(c) and (d) Central Government allocates foodgrains (rice, wheat and coarse grains), sugar and kerosene oil under TPDS to States/UTs for distribution to the eligible beneficiaries. However, the States/UTs have been advised to broaden the list of items sold at Fair Price Shops to improve their viability. Some States/UTs have reported distribution of non-PDS items like pulses, edible oils, iodized salt, spices, etc. through FPSs.