

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6578
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
FUNDS FOR PDS REFORMS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to release funds for reforming the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any measures are being taken for penalising those who provide foodgrains to bogus/ineligible beneficiaries; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : For strengthening and streamlining of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Government provides funds under various schemes such as 'Strengthening of PDS & Capacity Building' and 'End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations'.

Under the scheme 'Strengthening of PDS & Capacity Building', funds are released under various components relating to (i) installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) sets on the vehicles transporting TPDS commodities; (ii) conducting training programmes for officials of the State/UT Civil Supplies Departments / Corporations, members of vigilance committees, etc. and seminars/ workshops for senior level officials of the States/ UTs, etc., engaged in supply management of essential commodities under TPDS; (iii) evaluation studies for evaluating the impact of TPDS on the targeted beneficiaries and to plug loopholes in implementation of TPDS; and (iv) generating awareness amongst the TPDS beneficiaries about their entitlement and redressal mechanism. During 2012-13, an amount of Rs.80.76 lakh was utilized under this scheme.

Financial assistance is also provided to State/UTs under the scheme 'End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations'. Government has approved Component I of the scheme, which comprises activities, namely, digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanism. An amount of Rs.41.69 crore has been utilized during 2012-13 under the scheme.

(c) & (d) : In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955), Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified on August 31, 2001, which mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of this Order is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. State/UT Governments have reported action such as cancellation of bogus/ineligible ration cards, lodging of criminal cases, etc. Departmental action including suspension, lodging of FIR and recovery action has been reported by States/UTs in respect of staff held responsible for issue of bogus ration cards.