

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:248

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013

DIVERSION OF FOODGRAINS

Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Manjhi Shri Hari

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

(a) whether cases of pilferage, diversion and black marketing of foodgrains and other items meant for the Public Distribution System (PDS) have been reported from various States during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon indicating the quantum and value of the said items diverted;

(c) whether fixing of these leakages has assumed a greater importance in view of the implementation of the Ordinance on National Food Security and if so, the details thereof and the action taken to strengthen/streamline PDS and resolve the issues relating to leakage, storage and transportation of foodgrains; and

(d) whether responsibilities have been fixed against the officials in such cases of diversion/black marketing of PDS items and if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those held responsible along with the amount recovered from them?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c) & (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. 248 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27.08.2013 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including leakages, diversion, etc. in some States/regions in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/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 current year is at Annex - I.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified by the Government which mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. State/UT Governments have also been delegated powers to take necessary action under the provisions of the Essential Commodities (EC) Act, 1955 and The Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to prevent hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities. The action taken by the State Governments/UTs under the EC Act, 1955 during the last three years and current year as reported by them is as under:

(Up to 30.07.2013)

Year	No. of raids	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted confiscated (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of persons convicted	No. of persons of goods	Value
2010	204783	10906	4539	161	10500.741	
2011	180785	4498	4486	30	7164.8068	
2012	151544	4249	3454	414	23797.88	
2013	67228	2836	1554	898	53529.11	

However, a specific assessment of quantity of foodgrains under TPDS and its diverted value is not available.

(c): Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. Further, National Food Security Ordinance (NFSO), 2013 promulgated on 05.07.2013 also contains provisions for reforms in TPDS which inter alia includes doorstep delivery of foodgrains to the TPDS outlets, application of information and communication technology tools including end-to-end computerization, leveraging 'aadhaar' for unique identification with biometric information of entitled beneficiaries for proper targeting of benefits, full transparency of records, diversification of commodities distributed under the TPDS over a period of time etc. NFSO also stipulates among others that the Central Government shall provide for transportation of foodgrains, as per allocation, to the depots designated by the Central Government in each State and provide assistance to the State Government in meeting the expenditure incurred by it towards intra-State movement, handling of foodgrains and margins paid to fair price shop dealers, in accordance with such norms and manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government. As regard storage, the NFSO, 2013 provides that Central Government shall create and maintain required modern and scientific storage facilities at various levels. State Governments shall also create and maintain scientific storage facilities at the State, District and Block levels sufficient to accommodate foodgrains required under the TPDS and other food based welfare schemes

(d): PDS(Control) Order, 2001 empowers State/UT Governments to take punitive action under clauses 8 & 9 in case of contravention of relevant provisions of the Order. State/UT-wise details regarding action taken under clauses 8 & 9 of the said Order during the last three years and the current year is at Annex – II. However, details of the responsibilities fixed, amounts recovered etc. from officials are not maintained in this Ministry.