

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:351
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013
DIFFERENCES IN PDS CONSUMPTION
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of results of the recently concluded 66th round survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) that highlights the striking differences in Public Distribution System (PDS) consumption by rural households across the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total and percentage consumption of the items being distributed through the Fair Price Shops, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has ascertained the reasons behind this consumption trend amongst rural households across the States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the percentage of PDS consumption by eligible households across the States?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : As per 66th round survey (2009-10) of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the contribution of consumption from PDS purchases to total consumption by rural households was 23.5% for rice, 14.6% for wheat/atta, 14.7% for sugar and 86% for kerosene. These percentage however vary significantly across States, details of which are at Annexure.

(c) & (d) : Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Government allocates foodgrains (rice and wheat) @ 35 kg. per family per month to States/Union Territories (UTs) for 6.52 crore accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, which includes about 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, for distribution at subsidized prices through Fair Price Shops (FPSs). Allocation of foodgrains to about 11.52 crore Above Poverty Line (APL) families are also made depending upon the availability of foodgrains in the Central pool and the past offtake. Presently, the allocation of foodgrains to APL families ranges between 15 and 35 kg per family per month. Keeping in view the availability of stocks and requirements /requests received from States/UTs, Government has been making additional allocation of foodgrains over and above the normal allocation under TPDS.

The consumption of foodgrains under TPDS across the States may vary due to various reasons, which inter-alia include issuance of ration cards by States/UTs in excess of the accepted number of households for which foodgrains are being allocated, variation in quantity of foodgrains lifted by States/UTs, effectiveness of TPDS implementation, etc.

(e) : 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 and check leakages/diversion of foodgrains 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.