

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:810

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013

DISMANTLING OF PDS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received recommendations/ suggestions to dismantle the present Public Distribution System (PDS) for better implementation of the Food Security Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Union Government to implement these recommendations/ suggestions;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken steps to review the lists of Below Poverty Line and Antyodaya Anna Yojana families, ensure timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops, bring greater transparency in the functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System, improve monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as computerisation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) the parameters regarding population coverage, foodgrains entitlements and issue prices under existing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) will be replaced by the corresponding parameters prescribed in the Act. The subsidized foodgrains will however continue to be delivered through TPDS.

(c) & (d) Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting States/UTs Governments for continuous review of lists of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops (FPSs), greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools including end-to-end Computerisation of TPDS, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc.

A Nine Point Action Plan for curbing the leakages/diversion of foodgrains under TPDS was evolved in July, 2006 in consultation with the State/UT Governments. Details of the action taken by States/UTs under the Nine Point Action Plan as reported upto 30.09.2013 are at Annexure.

The NFSA also contains measures for reforms in TPDS, to be undertaken progressively by the Central and State Governments. These reforms inter alia include, doorstep delivery of foodgrains to the TPDS outlets, application of information and communication technology tools, diversification of commodities distributed under the Public Distribution System over a period of time etc. Provisions for transparency and accountability in TPDS which includes disclosure of records of TPDS, conduct of social audit and setting up of Vigilance Committees at the State, District, Block and fair price shop levels have also been made in the Act, besides grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels