

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:768

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013

REVIEW OF PDS

Anandan Shri K.Murugeshan;Natarajan Shri P.R.;Singh Shri Mahabali

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently carried out any analysis/review of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof indicating the number of persons identified, ration cards issued, foodgrains allocated and subsidy spent during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Ministry has approached the Planning Commission to evaluate the Public Distribution System and suggest measures to strengthen it before fully implementing the National Food Security Act and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Planning Commission thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the estimated expenditure of Subsidy for implementing universal PDS; and
- (e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) This Department has been getting the functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) evaluated by different agencies from time to time. The latest evaluation study of TPDS was got conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in respect of 12 States (reports submitted in 2007-09) and through Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) (reports submitted in 2010-11) in respect of 14 States. These evaluation studies have revealed certain shortcomings/deficiencies in the functioning of TPDS, such as inclusion/exclusion errors, leakages/ diversion of foodgrains, etc. The reports received have been sent to the States/UTs concerned for taking necessary remedial measures to remove the deficiencies noticed in the functioning of TPDS.

Based on reports received from States/UTs, a statement regarding the accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families and ration cards issued to them during the last three years and the current year is at Annex - I. Statement regarding the foodgrains allocated during the last three years and the current year is at Annex - II. Statement regarding food subsidy incurred during the last three years and the current year is at Annex - III.

(c) Yes, Madam. This Ministry had approached the Planning Commission to evaluate the functioning of TPDS. In response to this Ministry's request, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) in the Planning Commission has agreed to undertake the evaluation of TPDS. The terms of reference for the evaluation, selection of institutes/agencies to carry out the work, etc. would be finalised by the IEO. The findings of the evaluation study will help strengthen the TPDS. However, implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 is independent of the proposed evaluation of TPDS.

(d) No, Madam. There is no proposal at present for universalisation of the Public Distribution System.

(e) The question does not arise.