

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3225

ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014

IRREGULARITIES IN PDS

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

(a) the details of the cases of corruption/irregularities/diversion reported in the Public Distribution System (PDS) along with the corrective measures including action taken against those held responsible for the lapses, during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether some States have initiated steps or introduced new models to check corruption and bring transparency in the functioning of the PDS and if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein, State-wise; and

(c) whether any of the said models are being considered by the Union Government for replication to reform/strengthen PDS in other States and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Various irregularities in the functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the States/Union Territories (UTs) such as leakage/ diversion of foodgrains, inclusion/ exclusion errors, etc. are reported from time to time. In order to maintain supplies and to secure availability and distribution of essential commodities, PDS(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. The said Order 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 four years is at Annex -I.

(b) & (c) States/UTs have taken various initiatives for checking corruption, bringing transparency and strengthening the overall implementation of TPDS. As part of modernisation of TPDS, the States of Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka and Puducherry UT are implementing computerised supply chain management of TPDS. State of Gujarat has introduced the use of bar coded ration cards and issuance of food coupons through the Common Service Centres (CSCs). Dissemination of TPDS related information through transparency portal is operational in 25 States/UTs. Further, this Department had financed pilot projects in States/UTs namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and Haryana for computerisation of TPDS. A Common Application Software (CAS) has been prepared by National Informatics Centre (NIC) for computerisation of TPDS operations based upon learnings of these pilot projects and other best practices, which has been offered to all States/UTs. State/UT-wise details of computerisation of TPDS being implemented as part of the Plan Scheme on End -to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations is given at Annex- II. The best practices and reforms undertaken by States/UTs are shared at various conferences, meetings, etc with a view to encourage other States/UTs to consider similar innovative and new models.