

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3919

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

COMPLAINTS OF MPS

Khaira Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Singh Shri Ratan

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

(a) whether under the extant rules governing the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) the complaints of the Members of Parliament (MPs) are forwarded by the Union Government to the State Governments and thereafter the States are required to reply to the Members directly;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its present status of compliance;

(c) whether on account of the said provision the information regarding corruption prevalent in the TPDS is not reaching the Union Government as it is not included in the transmission of the information from the States to the MPs; And

(d) if so, reaction of the Government thereto along with the remedial/corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Complaints including references from Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding irregularities in implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are received in the Department from time-to-time. These relate mainly to alleged irregularities in distribution of foodgrains, non-issuance of ration cards to eligible beneficiaries, malpractices by the Fair Price Shop (FPS) owner, etc. Such issues come within the purview of the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations who are required to take action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Prevention of Black -marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 and the respective State Control Orders. Therefore, such references are forwarded to States/UTs for necessary action. In case of references received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament, State/UT Governments are requested to send a reply to the Hon'ble Members of Parliament under intimation to this Department. Thereafter, a reply is also sent by the competent authority to the Hon'ble Member of Parliament in the matter. During the last three years and the current year, 74 such references from Hon'ble Members of Parliament were received and replied by the Department.

(c) & (d): Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.