

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:361

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009

DIVERSION OF FOODGRAINS

Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

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

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the reports of alleged cases of diversion of foodgrains under the welfare schemes including smuggling to neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes application of modern technology including Global Positioning System to monitor the movement of foodgrains under the various welfare schemes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.361 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2009 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a),(b),(c)&(d):Central Government provides foodgrains to States and UTs for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). It also provides foodgrains for a number of other Welfare Schemes like Mid-Day-Meal Scheme, Wheat based Nutrition Programme, Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls, Annapurna, Village Grain Banks, etc. These schemes are run with the help of State/UT Governments.

Some complaints have been received about diversion of foodgrains allocated to State & UT Governments under TPDS. These complaints have been sent to concerned State/UT Governments for inquiry and corrective action as per powers delegated to them under Essential Commodities Act, 1955. State/UT Governments have also been advised to ensure doorstep delivery of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops under TPDS and active involvement of village level Vigilance Committees. Some complaints have also been received in respect of foodgrains allocated under the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme. These too have been sent to the State/UT Governments for corrective measures.

To prevent smuggling of foodgrains to neighbouring countries, field agencies of Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance maintain vigil on India's international borders. No major cases of smuggling of foodgrains diverted from Welfare Schemes have been reported by these agencies.

Government has initiated schemes for adoption of technology based applications for improving service delivery under TPDS. These include computerization of TPDS operations, introduction of Smart Card based delivery of essential commodities and use of Global Positioning System (GPS) devices on vehicles transporting TPDS commodities.