

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5712

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015

FOODGRAIN BASED WELFARE SCHEMES

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

- (a) the details of the foodgrains based welfare schemes being implemented by the Government for the people living Below Poverty Line in the country, State-wise and scheme-wise;
- (b) the quantum of foodgrains supplied for distribution under the said schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State and scheme-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints regarding irregularities/corruption in the implementation of the said schemes during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken by the Government on such complaints so far State and scheme-wise; and
- (e) the other remedial measures taken/ being taken by the Government for proper implementation of the said schemes and supply of adequate foodgrains there under?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

(a): Government of India allocates foodgrains to the people living below poverty line under its Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Under the scheme 35 kg of foodgrains is allocated per family per month. After implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA) only 25 States/UTs are now being allocated foodgrains for BPL categories as there is no BPL category under NFSA.

The Government of India has also been providing food grains at highly subsidized prices through the State Governments /UT Administrations under Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) (Sabla), Annapurna Scheme, Welfare Institutions Scheme, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/ Other Backward Class Hostel Scheme etc.

(b): The State-wise allocation/offtake of foodgrains for BPL category under TPDS during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in some States/ regions in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/ UT Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS within the State/ UT rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the concerned Department/State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. The total number of complaints received during the last year State wise is Annex-II.

(e): Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous endeavour. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding meetings, conferences, etc. wherein State/UT Governments are requested for review of lists of beneficiaries, improving the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair price Shops (FPSs), greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc. The National Food Security Act, 2013, notified on 10.09.2013, also contains measures for reforms in TPDS, to be undertaken progressively by the Central and State/UT Governments. These reforms inter alia include door-step delivery of foodgrains at the FPS, application of information and communication technology tools including end to end computerisation, preference to public institutions/bodies in licensing of FPSs, etc.