

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4823

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014

COVERAGE UNDER NFSA

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints from various quarters regarding benefits being availed by the affluent/ineligible classes under the National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has received any requests/suggestions to include more items under the scheme to improve the nutritional level of the food being provided and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government indicating the quantum of various items supplied to the States, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for proper implementation of the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

(a) and (b): Identification of beneficiaries for receiving foodgrains through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is the responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs). Complaints regarding errors in identification of beneficiaries are received from time to time and are forwarded to concerned States/UTs for necessary action.

(c): Suggestions for inclusion of more items such as pulses and edible oils under TPDS under NFSA have been received from time to time. Entitlements under TPDS in the Act have however been restricted to foodgrains i.e. wheat, rice and coarse grains, keeping in view their availability and assured supply. However, State/UT Governments have been encouraged to enlarge the basket of commodities by adding non-PDS items for sale through Fair Price Shops (FPSs). Some States/UTs have reported distribution of items like pulses, edible oils, iodized salt, spices etc. through FPSs. The NFSA also contains measures for reforms in TPDS, to be undertaken progressively by the Central and State Governments, which inter alia include diversification of commodities distributed under the PDS over a period of time.

State-wise details of foodgrains allocated under the Act to 11 States/UTs, where its implementation has started, are at Annexure.

(d): States/UTs are required to take various preparatory actions to implement the Act, which inter alia include identification of eligible households for coverage under TPDS, creation of sufficient and scientific storage capacity at various levels in the State/UT, doorstep delivery of foodgrains, appointment/designation of District Grievance Redressal Officer (DGRO), setting up/designation of State Food Commission etc. Implementation status of the Act is reviewed on a regular basis and necessary advisories are issued to States/UTs, wherever required.