

Title: Need to formulate new guidelines to make the Targetted Public Distribution System effective - Laid.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): The Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is by far largest food entitlement programme in India. It is accessed by more than a third of the total population in India and BPL families remain the single most important beneficiaries that the PDS serves. It is also the critical part of the procurement chain of the Government - both the Centre and State - which provides a minimum support price to farmers for their produce and helps check prices of agriculture commodities. In order to bring transparency and accountability and reduce leakages, I request Government that actions could be taken to include; posting publicly at the Fair Price Shop (FPS) and gram panchayat offices the official entitlements; the list of BPL/AAY beneficiaries; sale and stock positions; enabling Panchayat Raj Institutions and community groups to take a greater role in monitoring and overseeing the operations of the TPDS at the community level. Instead of physically distributing foodgrains, alternative mechanisms, such as food stamps or coupons, could be introduced.