

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4878
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd JULY, 2019**

DIVERSION OF FOOD ITEMS

4878. SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of diversion of food items meant for Public Distribution System (PDS) to the market in some of the States, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that such diversions do not take place as far as PDS products are concerned?**

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)

(a) & (b): Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments, wherein the operational responsibilities within the State/UT rest with the respective State/UT Government. As and when complaints are received in this Department from individuals, organizations as well as through media reports regarding any irregularities in the functioning of the PDS, including leakages & diversion of foodgrains thus not reaching to the intended beneficiaries, etc., they are forwarded to the concerned State/UT Government for inquiry and appropriate action at their end. During the last year 2018 a total of 941 complaints were received in the Department and were forwarded to concerned State/UT for necessary action at their end.

Further, to address challenges such as leakage and diversion of foodgrains, inclusion/exclusion errors, fake and bogus ration card, Government is implementing a scheme on "End-to-End Computerisation of Targeted Public Distribution (TPDS) Operations". The Scheme comprises digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, online allocation, computerisation of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms. Digitization of all ration cards/beneficiaries under NFSA have been completed in all States/UTs and the electronic Point of Sale(ePoS) devices have been installed in about 77% Fair Price Shops(FPSs) out of total 5.34 lakh FPSs across the country.
