

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 251
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th NOVEMBER, 2019

CORRUPTION IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

†251. SHRI RAVI KISHAN:
DR. RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA:

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

- (a) whether the complaints have been received in respect of the corruption in food distribution in the country including in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check it, State-wise; and
- (c) the plan formulated by the Government for permanent solution for checking the said corruption?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD &
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)

(a) to (c): 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 corruption, leakages & diversion of subsidized 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.

An offence committed in violation of the provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2015 is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, the Order empowers State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders. A State/UT-wise statement including Uttar Pradesh indicating number of such complaints received in the Department during the current year is at Annexure-I. Also, the institutional mechanism for the monitoring and grievance redressal under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides setting up of Vigilance Committees, District Grievance Redressal Officers and independent State Food Commission for making the system more efficient and transparent.

Further, to bring reforms in the functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS), this Department in collaboration with all States/UTs is implementing a scheme on 'End-to-End Computerization of PDS Operations'. The scheme comprises of digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms in all States/UTs. The Scheme also includes automation of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) by installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices for distribution of foodgrain at all FPSs and electronic record keeping of all sale transactions.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.251 DUE FOR ANSWERED ON 19.11.2019 IN THE LOK SABHA.

STATEMENT: COMPLAINTS ON TPDS RECEIVED IN THE DEPARTMENT FROM INDIVIDUALS, ORGANISATIONS & THROUGH MEDIA REPORTS ETC FOR THE YEAR 2019 (upto 31.10.2019)

S. No.	State/UT	2019
1	Andhra Pradesh	6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3	Assam	7
4	Bihar	108
5	Chhattisgarh	7
6	Delhi	78
7	Goa	1
8	Gujarat	7
9	Haryana	34
10	Himachal Pradesh	1
11	J&K	3
12	Jharkhand	16
13	Karnataka	18
14	Kerala	11
15	Madhya Pradesh	24
16	Maharashtra	24
17	Manipur	-
18	Meghalaya	1
19	Mizoram	-
20	Nagaland	1
21	Orissa	16
22	Punjab	14
23	Rajasthan	23
24	Sikkim	-
25	Tamil Nadu	15
26	Telangana	3
27	Tripura	-
28	Uttarakhand	12
29	Uttar Pradesh	328
30	West Bengal	48
31	A&N Island	-
32	Chandigarh	-
33	D& N Haveli	-
34	Daman & Diu	-
35	Lakshadweep	-
36	Puducherry	1
TOTAL		807