

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3752
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
EVALUATION OF TPDS
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

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

- (a) Whether any study has been conducted for the evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ;
- (b) If so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (c) The reaction of the State Governments thereto ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a),(b)&(c) : Programme Evaluation Organization of Planning Commission (PEO) and ORG Marg, New Delhi have conducted studies on Performance Evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Evaluation study of TPDS & Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) respectively.

The Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of the Planning Commission has in its report based on study of 18 major States submitted in March, 2005 reported that the Foodgrains leakage (as a percentage of offtake of BPL quota) through ghost ration card is 16.67% and at Fair Price Shop is 19.71% (all India basis).

The PEO has pointed out that the main reasons for leakages are that implementation of TPDS is plagued by targeting errors, prevalence of ghost cards and unidentified households and siphoning off of foodgrains from the supply chain.

An Evaluation Study on TPDS and AAY was undertaken by the ORG Centre for Social Research, New Delhi. As per the findings of the Study there was a diversion of wheat and rice of 53.3% and 39% respectively at the all India level. The final report has been received in September, 2005 and forwarded to States/UTs for comments. The issue of diversion has been discussed in the recently held Regional Conferences with the State Governments. The issue was also discussed in the Food Ministers/ Food Secretaries Conference held on 29-03-2006. The State Governments have however expressed reservations in these Conferences on the findings of the study. The participants States/UTs were requested to take necessary immediate steps to strengthen TPDS and to curb diversion/leakage. On the basis of the discussions, this Department has drawn a Action Plan and sent to all State Governments for taking necessary action thereon. The Action Plan contains the following points:

1. States should undertake a campaign for Review of BPL/AAY lists, to eliminate ghost ration cards.
2. Strict action should be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. In this respect information asked for under clause 8 & 9 of PDS Control Order, may also be sent.
3. For sake of transparency involvement of elected PRI members in distribution of foodgrains be ensured. As far as possible, FPS licences be given to SHGs, gram panchayats, cooperatives, etc.
4. BPL/AAY lists should be displayed on all FPSs.
5. District-wise and FPS-wise allocation of foodgrains should be put up on websites and other prominent places, for public scrutiny.
6. Wherever possible, door step delivery of foodgrains should be ensured by States, instead of letting private transporters/wholesalers to transport goods.
7. Timely availability of foodgrains at FPS level and fixed dates of distribution to ration card holders should be ensured.
8. Training of members of FPS level Vigilance Committees should be ensured.
9. Computerisation of TPDS operations be undertaken.

In addition, the Government has also taken steps for introducing electronic transfer of funds to FCI and issued instructions for display

of Banners/Boards on the wind shield as well as rear end of the truck/vehicles carrying PDS articles indicating name of State Government, destination, commodity and Agent's name.