

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1486
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2016
Public Distribution
Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Singh Shri Bhola

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

- (a) the number of persons receiving foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and their ratio to the total population along with the criteria adopted for their identification, State-wise ;
- (b) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding issuance of cards to ineligible persons;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken to check cases of irregular inclusion and exclusion; and
- (d) the quantity of different food items provided to States during the last three years under PDS, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a): National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, notified on 10.9.2013. Under the Act, the number of persons eligible for receiving subsidized foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is estimated at about 81.35 crores which covers about 67% of the total population of the country comprising of 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population. Corresponding to the all India coverage, the State/Union Territory (UT)-wise coverage for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains was determined by the erstwhile Planning Commission on the basis of 2011-12 NSSO Household Consumption Expenditure Survey. The responsibility of identification of eligible households within the coverage determined for State/UT is that of the State/UT Government as per criteria evolved by them.

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(b) & (c): There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including issuance of cards to ineligible persons, distribution, leakages, diversion, etc. in some States/regions in the country. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. A State/UT-wise statement indicating number of such complaints received during the last three years and current year is at Annex -I.

As per relevant clauses of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 and Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2015, State Governments/UT Administrations are required to review the lists of beneficiaries every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. The exercise of deletion of bogus/ineligible cards and inclusion of eligible families is a continuous process and State Governments/UT Administrations are to periodically carry out the same.

Government is also implementing Component-I of the Plan scheme 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' during the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17). Component-I which includes digitization of beneficiary/ration cards data for ensuring de-duplication of bogus/ineligible ration cards and distribution of TPDS commodities to eligible beneficiaries.

(d): A statement showing quantity of different food items provided to States during the last three years under PDS is at Annex-II, III & IV.
