

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1474

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014

FOODGRAIN MANAGEMENT .

Agrawal Shri Rajendra;Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi;Mondal Shri Sunil Kumar;Panda Shri Baijayant "Jay";Singh Dr. Satya Pal

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

- (a) whether the Government has initiated any reforms to improve the system of foodgrain management in the country including digitizing/computerisation of Food Corporation of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there have been complaints of short supply, adulteration and black marketing of Public Distribution System (PDS) supplies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard;
- (e) the steps including association of Panchayati Raj institutions for proper monitoring and regulation of the PDS to ensure transparent and efficient delivery of services to the poor; and
- (f) whether there is any proposal to increase the per capita allocation of PDS items and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

(a)&(b) Yes Madam. A High Level Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Shanta Kumar has been set up to study the need for restructuring Food Corporation of India (FCI) to improve its operational and financial efficiency. The committee was directed to submit its recommendation within a period of three months, however, committee has sought an extension of two months.

(c) to (e): There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in some States/regions in the country. As the operational responsibility for implementation of TPDS is with the State/UT, therefore, complaints as such received are sent to concerned States for inquiry and appropriate action. To improve functioning of TPDS and bringing transparency in the system, States have been instructed to ensure continuous review of lists of beneficiaries, improve the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensure timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improve monitoring and vigilance at various levels, improve the viability of FPS operations, etc.

Various measures have been taken by the Government to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). States/UTs have been instructed to involve elected PRI members in distribution of foodgrains and for giving FPS licenses to Village Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies. States/UTs have also been instructed to introduce monthly certification by the concerned village panchayat/urban local body etc. of delivery of allocated TPDS commodities at the FPSs and their distribution to entitled/ eligible ration card holders during the allocation month.

(f) Within the coverage determined under National Food Security Act (NFSA) the (Antodaya Ann Yojna) AAY households are entitled to receive 35kg of foodgrains per month and persons belonging to priority households are entitled to 5kg of foodgrains per person per month. There is no proposal to increase these entitlements.