

Corruption in PDS

749. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether nearly 40 per cent of beneficiaries are being kept away from the PDS scheme by denying ration cards as per CAG report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government; and
- (c) the details of monitoring mechanism by the Central Government to supervise PDS scheme being implemented through the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per CAG report for the year ended March, 2005 [Union Government (Civil) Performance Audit No. 16 of 2006], a survey conducted regarding functioning of fair price shops in Manipur, *inter-alia*, indicated that 37% of the beneficiaries had not been issued ration cards. In this regard the report was called for from the State Government of Manipur, The State Government has reported that FPS level vigilance committees have been set up and adequate efforts are being made to improve TPDS. It has also been informed that penal action has been taken against four officers of the Food and Civil Supplies Department for diversion of foodgrains.

(c) Under PDS (Control) Order 2001, State & UT Governments are mandated to issue ration cards only to eligible applicants. As stipulated under this Order, reports are obtained from State Governments on their monitoring of TPDS under clause 8 and penal action taken under clause 9. Reports in Form 'C' are obtained on distribution of foodgrains and status of ration cards. Utilization Certificates (UCs) for the foodgrains allocated to State Governments are obtained regularly from the State Governments. Review meetings are held with Food Secretaries of State Governments on functioning of the TPDS. Area Officers of this Department also visit the States to monitor the functioning of TPDS in the States.

Similarly progress reports are obtained on implementation of 9-points action plan.

Sale of banned 'Khesari' pulse in open market

†750. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

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

- (a) the number of years since pulses are imported in the country;
- (b) the reasons for importing pulses;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the ban on khesari pulse continues; and
- (d) if so, whether Government is aware that khesari pulse is being treated with chemicals and poisonous materials and is being sold in the open market, and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per available published record, pulses are being imported into the country since 1960-61.

(b) The main reason for importing pulses is to augment the overall availability of pulses and to contain the prices of pulses.

(c) The sale of Khesari pulses has been prohibited under rule 44A in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. An extract of the relevant rule is reproduced below:-

"Rule 44-A:- Sale of Khesari gram prohibited:- No person in any State shall, with effect from such date as the State Government concerned may by notification in the Official Gazette specify in this behalf, sell or offer or expose for sale, or have in his possession for the purpose of sale, under any description or for use as an ingredient in the preparation of any article of food intended for sale Khesari gram and its mixture."

(d) There is no such report received by the Government.

Adulteration in food products

†751. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that ninety per cent of the food products being sold in the country are adulterated and are also the source of many serious diseases;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any effective step to stop this trade of adulteration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 is entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.T.s. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has informed that as per information made available by the Food Health Authorities through their Annual Reports on working of PFA Act, and Rules in their respective States/U.T.s from year 2003 to 2007, only about 8.9 percent of samples tested during the period 2003-07 were found adulterated.

The adulterants used in food articles may or may not cause illness in human beings.

(b) and (c) In order to keep a check on adulteration in food, the Food (Health) Authorities are advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil by drawing more and more food samples of all commodities from all sources viz. manufacturer, wholesalers and retailers and to take penal action against the offenders under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi