

Black marketing by FPS owners

2140. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE:

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

- (a) whether BPL, AAY and APL families are not getting subsidized foodgrains, edible oils and pulses through PDS;
- (b) whether FPS owners are leaking and diverting these items into black market;
- (c) if so, the steps taken to strengthen PDS and to check leakages and diversion of foodgrains etc. into black market;
- (d) how many of the PDS and other people have been brought to book in regard to the above;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to provide money to BPL, AAY and APL families in place of foodgrains to check black marketing; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Government provides foodgrains to State/UT Governments for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg. per family per month at highly subsidized prices. Allocation to above Poverty Line (APL) families is made on the basis of availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and the past off-take. Presently, the allocation of foodgrains for APL Category ranges between 15 kg. and 35 kg. per family per month at subsidized prices. In order to cushion consumers against price rise in pulses and edible oils, the Central Government also allocates imported edible oil and pulses to the State/UT Governments as per the demand/requirements indicated by them for distribution to the ration card holders/consumers.

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration

cards to them and supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops rest with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations.

Complaints as and when received by the Central Government about malpractices in TPDS including diversion/leakages of foodgrains, are sent to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for inquiry and necessary action.

Government has issued directions to State Governments to streamline functioning of TPDS by enforcing provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001. Government has also issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

In respect of malpractices detected under TPDS, the details of persons prosecuted under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (EC Act, 1955) and the persons detained under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 (PBM Act, 1980) during 2007 to 2010 are as under :

S.No.	Year	Persons prosecuted under EC Act, 1955	Persons detained under PBM Act, 1980
1.	2007	4872	119
2.	2008	6425	162
3.	2009	5131	147
4.	2010	1106	99
(upto 30.06.10)			

For monitoring supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, the Central Government has issued Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001. As provided under the said Order, the State and UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS, and competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS by invoking provisions of clauses 8 & 9 of the said Order. During the period January, 2007 to June, 2010 the State Governments/UT Administrations have reported 91217 cases of issue of show cause

notice/FIRs lodged/suspension/cancellation of FPS licences and arrest/prosecution/conviction of 17237 persons.

(e) and (f) State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Govt. of NCT of Delhi submitted proposals for direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families on pilot basis in five districts, namely, Lakhimpur Kheri and Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh, Panchkula and Jhajjar in Haryana and Central District in Delhi, instead of distribution of foodgrains to them under TPDS. Based on those proposals, a draft scheme has been prepared to test the feasibility of this alternative mode of transfer of food subsidy to BPL/AAY families under TPDS. It has been referred to Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) for the approval of Committee on Non-Plan Expenditure.

Implementation of food security system

‡2141. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken to start the first phase of food security system in one fourth part of the country;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) the places selected for the first phase along with the basis fixed for this selection; and
- (d) by when this system would be implemented throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Government is committed to enact a National Food Security Act which, inter-alia, envisages-entitling every below poverty line family in the country to a certain quantity of foodgrains every month at subsidized prices. At present, an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted for the purpose is considering issues concerning the proposed law. Based on directions of EGoM, a draft Bill will be prepared and placed on the website of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi