

Rampant corruption in PDS

362. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of rampant corruption in the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action is being taken to revamp PDS to make it corruption free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in certain regions/States in the country. As and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they have been sent to State/Union Territory (UT) Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified on August 31, 2001 which mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of this Order is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. State and UT Governments have been directed in July 2006 to implement 9-Point Action Plan for streamlining working of TPDS. Utilisation Certificates (UCs) for the foodgrains allocated to State Government are obtained regularly from the State Governments.

Government has regularly reviewed and also has 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, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

Beneficiaries covered under AAY

363. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received any requests from the