

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it makes the whole process more lengthy and complicated; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government is taking to provide foodgrains to the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in 1997 with a view to specifically target poor sections of society. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of Central Government and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for lifting and distribution of the allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible card holders through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are of the State/UT Governments. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to change the system of distribution of foodgrains in the country.

- (b) to (d) Does not arise.

Foodgrains scam

†1427. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons against whom CBI has taken action in foodgrains scam;
- (b) the details thereof; and
- (c) the details about the persons whose property has been confiscated in the scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Seven cases involving 48 officials have been registered from Bihar Region, by the CBI in foodgrain scam during the last three years for their alleged involvement in misappropriation of stocks pertaining to seven depots of Food Corporation of India.

- (c) No property of any person has been confiscated for the scam.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.