

Leakages in TPDS

3293. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the Government's stance on leakages in Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);
- (b) whether Government is focusing on checking these existing leakages;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for computerization of the supply chain to monitor PDS shipments and to curb their diversions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government would involve private players in the supply chain management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) There have been reports about irregularities in the functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including leakage/diversion of foodgrains in some States/regions in the country. As and when these reports are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding conferences wherein State/UT Governments are requested for continuous review of lists of beneficiaries, improving the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, improving the viability of FPS operations, *etc.*

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government is implementing Component-I of the Plan scheme 'End-to-end Computerisation of Targeted Public Distribution System Operations' during the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17). Component-I comprises digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanisms. The computerisation of supply chain management, *inter-alia* provides for tracking of the dispatch and receipt of TPDS items at Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State godowns, FPSs *etc.* and will help in checking leakage/diversion of foodgrains.

In so far implementation of Component-I referred above including computerisation of supply chain management is concerned, States/UTs have been given the flexibility to either undertake the implementation themselves or use the services of National Informatics Centre (NIC) or hire private agencies for this purpose.

Irregularities in providing foodgrains to BPL families

3294. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP:

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

(a) whether the quantity of foodgrains being supplied to BPL families is as per their entitlements in all States/regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor indicating the entitlement, allocation and actual distribution of foodgrains during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Government has received any complaints/reports about alleged irregularities including distribution/supply of foodgrains below their entitlements to BPL families and if so, details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Under the existing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), States/Union Territories(UTs) are allocated foodgrains @ 35 kg per family per month to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) [including Antryodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)] families as per their entitlement by Government of India. The States/UTs who have implemented National Food Security Act (NFSA) are allocated foodgrains under TPDS @ 5 kg per month per person belonging to priority category and @ 35 kg per family per month for existing AAY category as per their entitlement under the Act.

(c) and (d) There have been complaints about alleged irregularities including distribution/supply of foodgrains below their entitlement to BPL families in some States/UTs. State/UT-wise number of complaints received during the last three years and the current year is given in Statement (*See below*).

For better targeting of food subsidies, removing bogus ration cards, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains, check on leakage/diversion of foodgrains, introducing public