

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) has taken steps to transport 10,000 tonnes of foodgrains on experimental basis from Kakinada/Visakhapatnam to Agartala to explore the possibility of transportation of foodgrains to North East region by using Indo-Bangladesh protocol riverine route. First vessel carrying 5,000 tonnes Raw Rice has already been dispatched from Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Conventional movement by Rail/road takes 8-12 days to transport foodgrains from Punjab and Haryana to Agartala. Foodgrains are normally not sent from Andhra Pradesh to North East region using Rail and Road route. Since the transportation of foodgrains to Agartala through riverine route is being done for very small quantities on experimental basis, it is not possible to ascertain the average transportation time.

(d) FCI has proposed movement of foodgrains from Andhra Pradesh to Karimganj (Assam), using sea-river-road route. However, it has not been agreed upon by Government due to very high costs quoted by bidder.

(e) Since the movement by sea-river-road is being done on experimental basis for very small quantities, it is not possible to conduct cost benefit analysis.

Measures to improve PDS

3299. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to introduce any measures to improve the efficacy of the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Government has undertaken several measures from time to time for streamlining the implementation and improving the efficacy of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Government has taken up with States/UTs for implementing measures such as door-step delivery of foodgrains, correct identification of beneficiaries, improve foodgrains offtake, greater monitoring and vigilance, improving viability of fair price shop operations, etc. Best practices among States/UTs in TPDS implementation are shared through conferences, advisories, etc. for use by other States/UTs. With a view to modernize the system, the Government has initiated a Plan Scheme on End-to-end

Computerisation of TPDS Operations, which would facilitate digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, computerisation of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms.

Bogus ration cards

3300. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that bogus ration cards are being used to avail benefits under PDS;
- (b) if so, how many such bogus cards have been detected by Government during the last three years, the State-wise breakup thereof; and
- (c) the action Government proposes to take to prevent the use of bogus cards in PDS and punish the bogus card holders?

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 implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in certain areas/States including prevalence of bogus ration cards. A statement showing State/UT-wise number of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted by the State/UT Governments during the years 2011 to 2013 is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The operational responsibility for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rests with the respective State Government/UT Administration. Thus, as and when such complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they are sent to the State/UT concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

In terms of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, State Governments/UT Administrations are to review the lists of beneficiaries every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. The exercise of deletion of bogus/ineligible cards and inclusion of eligible families is a continuous process and State Governments/UT Administrations are to periodically carry out the same. The Nine Point Action Plan of 2006 *inter-alia* includes continuous review of Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards alongwith strict action to be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. State/UT Governments have also been requested to initiate penal action