

Coordination between Centre and States for effective implementation of PDS

1912.DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that proper coordination between Central Government and State Governments is lacking due to which Public Distribution System (PDS) is not being implemented upto the expectations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial measures being taken by Government to ensure proper PDS and coordination between States and Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) to (c) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operational responsibilities for lifting and distributing the allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible cardholders through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are that of State/UT Governments.

TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of Central and State/UT Governments wherein close coordination is maintained for its smooth implementation. Consultations are regularly held with States/UTs before implementing various legislative/policy measures, preparing schemes for strengthening of TPDS, etc. Central Government also issues periodic advisories and holds meetings, conferences, etc. with States/UTs from time to time regarding issues relating to implementation of TPDS such as correct identification of beneficiaries, leakage free distribution of foodgrains, transparency in TPDS operations, etc.

Storage capacity

†1913. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the storage capacity of foodgrains including wheat and rice available in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.