Corruption in PDS

†1472. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of corruption in PDS, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the State-wise details of the complaints received in this regard, especially from Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the efforts made to deal with these complaints and the action taken against the guilty;

(d) whether Government is issuing new ration cards to the poor as an identity card to curb corruption in the PDS, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when these new ration cards will be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) to (c) There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in some States/regions in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. A State/UT-wise statement indicating number of such complaints including those relating to State of Uttar Pradesh received during the year 2013 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified by the Government which mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. PDS (Control) Order, 2001 also empowers State/UT Governments to take punitive action under clauses 8 and 9 in case of contravention of relevant provisions of the Order. As per reports received from State/UT Governments, details regarding action taken under clauses 8 and 9 of the said Order during the year 2013 are as below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Number of inspections	Number of raids conducted	Number of persons arrested/prosecuted/ convicted	Number of FPS Licenses suspended/ Cancelled Show cause notices issued/FIR lodged
705892	61653	3044	15230

Further, the National Food Security Act (NFSA) which has been notified on 10th September, 2013, provides for a comprehensive grievance redressal mechanism including District Grievance Redressal Officer for each district and State Food Commission. Besides, the Act contains provisions for transparency and accountability in TPDS, including disclosure of records of TPDS, conduct of social audit, setting up of Vigilance Committees at the State, District, Block and Fair Price Shop (FPS) level etc.

(d) The issuance of new ration cards, their modification, deletion, etc. is a continuous process to be undertaken by State/UT Governments. However, as per PDS(Control) Order, 2001, ration cards shall not be used as documents of identity.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Statement

Complaints on TPDS received in the department from individuals, organisations and through media reports etc. for the year 2013

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Complaints	Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Complaints
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	17.	Manipur	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	18.	Meghalaya	1
3.	Assam	-	19.	Mizoram	-
4.	Bihar	32	20.	Nagaland	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	21.	Odisha	3
6.	Delhi	37	22.	Punjab	6
7.	Goa	-	23.	Rajasthan	18
8.	Gujarat	4	24.	Sikkim	0
9.	Haryana	11	25.	Tamil Nadu	9
10.	Himachal Pradesh	-	26.	Uttarakhand	2
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	27.	Uttar Pradesh	92
12.	Jharkhand	8	28.	West Bengal	7
13.	Karnataka	6	29.	Chandigarh	-
14.	Kerala	1	30.	Puducherry	-
15.	Madhya Pradesh	17		TOTAL	282
16.	Maharashtra	20			