

to (d) Strengthening and streamlining of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a continuous endeavour. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding meetings, conferences, etc. wherein State/UT Governments are requested for 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, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc.

The National Food Security Act, 2013, notified on 10.09.2013, also contains measures for reforms in TPDS, to be undertaken progressively by the Central and State/UT Governments. These reforms *inter alia* include door-step delivery of foodgrains at the FPS, application of information and communication technology tools including end to end computerisation, preference to public institutions/bodies in licensing of FPSs, etc.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 notified by the Government 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 & 9 in case of contravention of relevant provisions of the Order. If any person contravenes any provisions of this Order under clauses 3,4,6 and 7, he shall be liable to punishment under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act. Action in cases of blackmarketing of foodgrains is also taken by States/UTs under the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

As per information received from the States/UTs, 124 detentions have been made in 2014 (upto 30.11.2014) in the cases of blackmarketing of essential commodities. State of Tamil Nadu has made 107 detentions while State of Gujarat has made 17.

Clarification regarding use of Satyamev Jayate

3074.SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Registrar of Societies, Government of NCT of Delhi has sought re-clarification last month from the Ministry regarding the use of name Satyamev Jayate as a title of an NGO to be registered in Delhi;
- (b) whether the Ministry has provided the re-clarification, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of above question does not arise.

Revamping the PDS

3075.SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to notify revised poverty estimates on the basis of which States can undertake proper identification of beneficiaries under PDS, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is considering to use biometric technology to include eligible beneficiaries and weed out ineligible ones, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the conference of Secretaries of State Food Departments made crucial recommendations for revamping the system and ensuring that grains reach the beneficiaries;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made in this regard; and

(e) the action taken by Government to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) Government has notified the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) on 10.09.2013, which *inter alia* provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population of the country for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Under NFSA, coverage under TPDS has been delinked from poverty estimates and corresponding to the above coverage at the all India level, State-wise coverage has been determined by the Planning Commission on the basis of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data for 2011-12 on consumption expenditure. Under the NFSA, the identification of eligible households is to be done by the respective State/UT Governments. As all States/UTs are required to implement NFSA, there is no proposal under consideration to notify revised poverty estimates for existing TPDS.

(b) Under the scheme of End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations, all States/UTs are *inter-alia* to digitise the ration card/ beneficiary data as per e-Gov standards and also to seed available Aadhaar numbers, which are linked to biometric data. This will help in weeding out bogus/ineligible beneficiaries and including the eligible beneficiaries.