

(b) The Government is already monitoring the prices of select essential commodities on a daily basis to ensure availability and stabilization in prices, and also taking policy decisions for market intervention if, any.

### **Corruption in PDS**

†1052. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large scale corruption is prevailing in the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether e-Ration Card Service can be an effective measure to curb corruption prevailing in the PDS, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Targeted Public Distribution System (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.

There have been complaints about irregularities including corruption in the functioning of TPDS such as inclusion and exclusion errors, prevalence of bogus / ineligible ration cards, diversion of foodgrains, beneficiaries not getting their entitled quota of foodgrains, etc. The reasons for such irregularities in the system may be linked to issues like lack of transparency, accountability, monitoring and enforcement.

With a view to modernize the system, the Government has initiated a Plan Scheme on End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS operations on cost sharing basis with States/UTs which includes digitization of ration cards /beneficiary and other databases, online allocation of foodgrains, computerization of supply-chain management, Fair Price Shop (FPS) automation which involves installation of Point of Sale (PoS) devices at FPS for authentication of beneficiaries, recording of sales to beneficiaries, uploading of transaction data in central server and setting up of transparency portals and grievances redressal mechanism. These measures are aimed at curbing leakages and diversion by bringing transparency and accountability.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.