

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014	2015	2016
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	-	1
34.	Puducherry	-	-	-
	TOTAL	460	818	1106

Strengthening of public distribution outlets

2314. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public distribution outlets for ration are far less than required because long queues are seen everywhere;

(b) whether there is any guideline to open ration outlets based upon the number of ration card holders or it is just an arbitrary decision; and

(c) if so, whether Government will issue advisory to States to open more ration shops depending upon reasonable number of ration card holders in a locality to minimize long queues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI. C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The operational responsibilities within the States/UTs including issuance of licences to the Fair Price Shops (FPSs), supervision over and monitoring of FPS functioning, etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

TPDS [Control] Order, 2015 requires State/UT Governments to issue an order under Section 3 of the Essential Commodity Act for regulating the sale and distribution of the essential commodities. Licenses to FPS shops are issued by State/UT Governments under the said order.

The TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, also requires the State/UT Governments to ensure that the number of ration card holders attached to an FPS are reasonable, the FPS is so located that the consumer or ration card holder does not have to face difficulty to reach the FPS and that proper coverage is ensured in hilly, desert, tribal and such other areas difficult to access.

Opening of more FPSs is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments and they do so based on the local requirements.