

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.873
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2024

COMMISSION TO RATION DEALERS

873 # DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the commission of ration dealers is not increasing at the ration shops while the expenses and salaries are increasing, due to which irregularities are increasing and ration is not being distributed to the public as per the intention of Government and corruption is taking place; and
- (b) whether Government would consider resolving the problems of these ration dealers, if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) & (b): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibility including issuance of licenses to Fair Price Shops (FPSs), supervision and monitoring of the functioning of Fair Price Shops etc., rest with the concerned State/UT Government. As per sub-clause (7) of clause 9 of the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, the State Government shall fix an amount as the fair price shop owner's margin, which shall be periodically reviewed for ensuring sustained viability of the fair price shop operations. As per sub-clause (9) of Clause 9, the State Government shall allow sale of commodities other than the foodgrains distributed under the TPDS at the fair price shops to improve the viability of the fair price shop operations.

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The Central Government has limited role in determining the actual rate of fair price shop dealers' margin/ commission/ honorarium etc. The Central Government only provides the assistance to States/UTs for meeting the expenditure towards intra-State movement & handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margin under the NFSA, in accordance with the provisions of Food Security (Assistance to State Governments) Rules, 2015, which inter-alia provides for norms of expenditure and pattern of central sharing. In order to ensure viability of Fair Price Shops, the norms of FPS Dealers margin were enhanced w.e.f. April, 2022 as per the details given below:

Category of States/UTs	Component of FPS dealers' margin	Pre-revised norms (Rate in rupee per quintal)	Revised norms (Rate in rupee per quintal)	Central share (in percentage)
General Category	Basic margin	70	90	50
	Additional margin	17	21	
Special category	Basic margin	143	180	75
	Additional margin	17	26	

However, State Governments are free to fix the actual rates, which can be higher than the norms specified in the rules. Central assistance will be limited to the rates specified in the Rules or the actual average rates for the State as a whole, at which the expenditure was actually incurred by the State Government, whichever is lower.
