

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 20.08.2010
ANSWERED ON
FOOD COUPONS .

2929

Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar

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

- (a) whether a system of issuing food coupons for disbursement of foodgrains has been introduced in some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and benefits accrued therefrom;
- (c) whether Government has impressed upon the States to run similar schemes for disbursing foodgrains in the remaining States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): Only a few States/Union Territories (UTs) have introduced food coupons, some only on a pilot basis. Government of Andhra Pradesh has issued Bar coded coupons for drawal of rice and kerosene under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to ensure that there is no impersonation/false accounting in distribution of essential commodities by the Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers. Arunachal Pradesh Government has initiated coupon system on an experimental basis in Tirap District. Coupons are issued to beneficiaries at the time of issuance / renewal of ration cards. The next month's allocation is based on the coupons submitted by the FPS dealer. Jammu & Kashmir Government is issuing ration cards in a booklet form for two years containing 24 coupons. As reported by Government of Bihar, monthly food coupons are issued to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families for a year and food grains are distributed to families on the basis of such coupons. However, effectiveness of such coupons in eliminating deficiencies in TPDS has not yet been evaluated.

In the Conference of Food Secretaries of States and UTs held on 12th and 13th July, 2010, various initiatives taken by States/UTs were presented, including the issue of Food coupons. Among other measures, it has been resolved to give a fillip to IT based initiatives through computerization of the TPDS and introduction of Smart Card based delivery of foodgrains to further strengthen & streamline TPDS.