

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3273
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2018

REACH OF PDS IN BACKWARD AREAS

3273. SHRI HARIVANSH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has been reviewing the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the backward districts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such districts identified in Bihar; and
- (c) the other steps taken to ensure that PDS reaches the deprived and backward areas?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (c): NITI Ayog has identified 115 districts, which have shown relatively less progress in achieving key social outcomes especially in Health & Nutrition, Education and Basic Infrastructure. These districts are termed as 'aspirational districts', and 13 of such districts are in Bihar.

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/Union Territories (UTs) Administrations. Central Government is responsible for procurement, State/UT-wise allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India for each State/UT. The operational responsibilities for distribution of foodgrains, within the State/UT, including identification of eligible households, issuance of ration cards to them, delivery of foodgrains upto door-steps of fair price shops (FPS), its distribution through FPSs and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of FPS, etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

Central Government reviews implementation of TPDS in States/UTs, through meetings with them at various levels and video conferencing. Central Government also assists State Governments in the foodgrains distribution process under TPDS by providing financial assistance for meeting expenditure on intra-State movement & handling of foodgrains and FPS dealers' margin.
