

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2740
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01ST AUGUST, 2017

UNIVERSAL PDS

2740. SHRI SULTAN AHMED:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to reintroduce universal PDS, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the last time review was undertaken to know the functioning of the targeted PDS in the country and the main findings of such a review;
- (c) whether everything is moving in the right direction about Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);
- (d) whether there are any major grievances or complaints about Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the last 3 years, if so, the details of the grievances redressal mechanism in the Ministry; and
- (e) the major changes brought about in the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the last 3 years to ensure that its fruits reach the desired destination ?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a): There is no such proposal under consideration. Public Distribution is being implemented under the provisions of National Food Security Act, which was enacted in 2013.

(b)&(c): During 2014-15, an evaluation study on functioning of TPDS/NFSA, was conducted in the states of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal through National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The functioning of PDS is reviewed periodically by the Government through meetings, workshops and field visits. Major areas identified for improvement include inter-alia error-free database of beneficiaries, preventing gaps in institutional preparedness to check leakage/diversions of foodgrains and greater transparency in maintaining records.

(d): There have been complaints/reports from individuals, organizations and media relating to untimely supply of foodgrains, leakage/diversions of foodgrains, irregularities in allotment of fair price shops, etc. NFSA provides for grievance redressal mechanism which includes setting up of State Food Commission, appointment of District Grievance Redressal Officers (DGRO) and setting up of Vigilance Committee at State/District/Block and FPS levels.

(e): For effective implementation of the Public Distribution System (PDS), Government is implementing a scheme on "End-to-end Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations". The scheme comprises digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries and other databases, online allocation, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal etc. Under the scheme, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs, transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs, online allocation has been implemented in 30 States/UTs and supply chain has been computerized in 20 States/UTs. Besides, Central Govt. has also asked States/UTs to opt for any of the two models of Direct Benefit Transfer - Cash transfer of food subsidy into the bank account of beneficiaries or Fair Price Shop (FPS) automation, which involves installation of Point of Sale (PoS) device at FPS, for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of transactions. The cash transfer of food subsidy is being implemented in 3 UTs namely Chandigarh, Puducherry w.e.f. 01-09-2015 and partially in Dadra & Nagar Haveli w.e.f. 01-03-2016. For remaining areas, more than 2.54 lakhs FPSs out of 5.27 lakhs FPSs have been automated across the country.
