

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5092
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH MARCH, 2018

IMPLEMENTATION OF PDS/TPDS/AAY

5092. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

- (a) whether the implementation of Public Distribution System(PDS), TPDS, Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been badly affected due to theft of foodgrains, corruption in fair price shops and frequent changes in licence holders of fair price shops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the remedial measures taken in this regard including cases registered and action taken against the officials involved;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to introduce food coupons and smart card system for preventing diversion of foodgrains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has received any investigation reports on modus operandi used to siphon off BPL rations and other subsidies;
- (f) if so, the factual position in this regard; and
- (g) whether biometric identification and use of scanners to authenticate BPL ration cardholders will prevent loss of subsidized food and if so, the manner in which the conclusion was arrived at?

A N S W E R

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

(a) & (b): Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/UT Governments. Central Govt. is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the FCI. The operational responsibilities for allocation and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries/families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Government. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of TPDS (C) Order, 2015 is liable for penal action under the

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Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, the Order empowers State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders. Statement showing details of action taken by the State/UT Governments under relevant clauses of the PDS/TPDS (Control) Orders from January 2015 to December, 2017 is given below.

Year	Number of inspections	Number of raids conducted	Number of persons arrested/ prosecuted/ convicted	Number of FPS Licenses suspended/ Cancelled/ Show cause notices issued/FIR Lodged
2015	573113	43546	1499	15176
2016	543938	65358	11408	11687
2017	202723	20270	5927	3569
Total	1319774	129174	18834	30432

(c) & (d): There is no proposal under consideration in the Department to introduce food coupons and smart card system.

(e) to (f): The nature of complaints relate to untimely supply of foodgrains, leakage/diversion, inclusion/exclusion errors, poor quality of foodgrains, bogus/ineligible ration cards being in circulation, irregular functioning of FPS, beneficiaries not getting their entitled quota of foodgrains, allotment of fair price shops in an arbitrary manner, etc. As and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they are sent to concerned State/UT for inquiry and appropriate action.

(g): To identify and weed out duplicate/ ineligible beneficiaries from PDS, and to enable rightful targeting of food subsidies, the States/UTs have been asked to seed available Aadhaar numbers of eligible beneficiaries/ households in their ration cards and install e PoS devices at the Fair Price Shops with the facility for the biometric authentication of the beneficiaries. States/UTs are reported to have cancelled/deleted 2.75 crore cards during 2013-17. Introduction of biometric authentication has helped in the process.
