

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5286
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH MARCH, 2018
DELAY IN RELEASE OF FOODGRAIN QUOTA

5286. SHRI ANOOP MISHRA:

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

- (a) whether the complaints of delay in release of the foodgrains quota have been received during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure timely release/distribution of foodgrains and other items under the said schemes?

A N S W E R

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

(a) to (c): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Government. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibility for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, including distribution of foodgrains to the eligible beneficiaries under TPDS rests with the concerned State Governments/UT Admn.

As per the extant norms, the State Governments/UT Administrations are required to ensure the lifting of foodgrains from FCI depots by the last day of the month preceding the allocation month. Under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, the receipt of foodgrains by the beneficiary in time is a legal entitlement and therefore it is imperative that the States/UTs lift the foodgrains within the validity period and ensure its timely distribution to the targeted beneficiary. Further, the States/UTs have been given the option for advance lifting and distribution upto six months ration in one go to the beneficiaries.

There have been a few instances of delay in lifting of foodgrains within the validity period and advisories have been sent to the 18 States/UTs viz Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tripura and West Bengal.

Government is implementing the scheme on 'End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations' to ensure greater efficiency and transparency in the distribution of foodgrains under NFSA, 2013.
