

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 631
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH FEBRUARY, 2018

ACCESS TO RATION SHOPS

631. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) the number of citizens who have access to ration shops within (a) 2 kms. (b) 5 kms. and (c) beyond 5 kms. of their dwelling State/UT-wise including Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) the number of States which followed the reservation policy in allotting ration shops and ensuring priority accorded to members of SC and ST categories as notified by the Government; and
- (c) the details of total number of ration shops allotted to individuals from the SC/ ST communities per year for the past five years, State/ UT-wise?

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 the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for allocation and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries/households, issuance of ration cards to them and issuing licences for running Fair Price Shops and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

As per TPDS[Control] Order,2015, the State Government is required to ensure that FPS is so located that the consumer or ration card holder does not have to face difficulty to reach the FPS and the proper coverage is ensured in hilly, desert, tribal and such other areas difficult to access. Besides, the State Government is required to accord preference to public institutions or public bodies such as panchayats, self help groups cooperative societies in licensing of FPS and management of FPS by women or their collectives.

A letter dated 22/6/2017 was issued to all State/UT Governments requesting them to kindly consider issuing FPS licences to citizens/groups belonging to SC/ST Community as per the reservation policy of their state to enable them to utilise this opportunity for their employment.
