

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1135
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2018

FEATURES AND MECHANISM OF FOOD SECURITY ACT

1135. COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY:

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

- (a) the features of National Food Security Act and the mechanism in place for its implementation;
- (b) whether complaints have been received with regard to non-providing of the beneficiaries under the scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action has been taken against the guilty persons on the basis of complaints received;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the concrete steps being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the Act and to provide benefits to eligible persons?

A N S W E R

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

(a): Salient features of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) are at Annexure -I. Foodgrains under the Act are distributed through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), which is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and 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 of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries/families, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS and supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

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(b) to (d): There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of TPDS including leakage/ diversion of foodgrains, foodgrains not reaching the intended beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to ineligible persons, etc in some States/regions in the country. Since TPDS is operated under joint responsibility of the Central and State/UT Governments, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned, for inquiry and appropriate action. A State/UT-wise statement indicating number of such complaints received during the last three years and current year is at Annexure – II.

(e): To improve transparency and better targeting of benefits under the Act, the Government is implementing computerization of TPDS operations, which covers digitization of beneficiary database, online allocation of foodgrains, computerization of supply chain management, online grievance redressal mechanism, transparency portals and use of electronic point of sale devices for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of transactions

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1135 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 24.07.2018 IN THE LOK SABHA

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT, 2013 (NFSA)

- 1. Coverage and entitlement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS):** Coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population under two categories – Households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households. While AAY households, which constitute poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month, priority households are entitled to 5 kg per person per month.
- 2. State-wise coverage:** Corresponding to the all India coverage of 75% and 50% in the rural and urban areas, State-wise coverage to be determined by the Central Government. The then Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) has determined the State-wise coverage by using the NSS Household Consumption Survey data for 2011-12.
- 3. Subsidized prices under TPDS and their revision:** Foodgrains under TPDS to be made available at subsidized prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains for a period of three years from the date of commencement of the Act. Thereafter prices to be as fixed by the Central Government from time to time, not exceeding MSP. It has been decided by the Government to continue the above mentioned subsidized prices upto June, 2019.
- 4.** In case, any State's allocation under the Act is lower than their current allocation, it will be protected upto the level of average offtake under erstwhile normal TPDS during 2010-11 to 2012-13, at prices to be determined by the Central Government. Prices for APL households under erstwhile TPDS i.e. Rs. 6.10 per kg for wheat and Rs 8.30 per kg for rice has been determined as issue prices for the additional allocation to protect the average offtake during last three years.
- 5. Identification of Households:** Within the coverage under TPDS determined for each State, the work of identification of eligible households is to be done by States/UTs.
- 6. Nutritional Support to women and children:** Pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years entitled to meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes. Higher nutritional norms prescribed for malnourished children upto 6 years of age.
- 7. Maternity Benefit:** Pregnant women and lactating mothers entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000.
- 8. Women Empowerment:** Eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above to be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing of ration cards.
- 9. Grievance Redressal Mechanism:** Grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels.
- 10. Cost of intra-State transportation & handling of foodgrains and FPS Dealers' margin:** Central Government to provide assistance to States in meeting the expenditure incurred by them on transportation of foodgrains within the State, its handling and FPS dealers' margin as per norms to be devised for this purpose.
- 11. Transparency and Accountability:** Provisions for disclosure of records relating to PDS, social audits and setting up of Vigilance Committees in order to ensure transparency and accountability.
- 12. Food Security Allowance:** Provision for food security allowance to entitled beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals.
- 13. Penalty:** Provision for penalty on public servant or authority, to be imposed by the State Food Commission, in case of failure to comply with the relief recommended by the District Grievance Redressal Officer.

ANNEXURE - II**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1137 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 24.07.2018 IN THE LOK SABHA****Complaints on TPDS received in the Department from Individuals, Organizations & through media reports etc from 2015 to 2017**

S. No.	State/UT	2015	2016	2017
1	Andhra Pradesh	8	5	10
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-	-
3	Assam	34	32	17
4	Bihar	106	81	169
5	Chhattisgarh	6	9	9
6	Delhi	113	91	98
7	Goa	-	1	2
8	Gujarat	8	12	9
9	Haryana	35	34	47
10	Himachal Pradesh	4	5	6
11	J&K	5	3	4
12	Jharkhand	32	29	35
13	Karnataka	16	22	28
14	Kerala	16	22	13
15	Madhya Pradesh	17	24	21
16	Maharashtra	48	62	77
17	Manipur	6	4	2
18	Meghalaya	7	9	-
19	Mizoram	-	-	2
20	Nagaland	-	2	2
21	Orissa	22	43	22
22	Punjab	10	7	5
23	Rajasthan	33	59	82
24	Sikkim	-	-	-
25	Tamil Nadu	22	33	31
26	Telangana	10	1	4
27	Tripura	-	1	1
28	Uttarakhand	24	21	22
29	Uttar Pradesh	197	461	445
30	West Bengal	32	29	49
31	A&N Island	-	1	-
32	Chandigarh	6	2	-
33	D& N Haveli	-	1	-
34	Puducherry	-	-	1
TOTAL		818	1106	1213