

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3265
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01 JANUARY, 2019
IRREGULARITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NFSA

3265. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of irregularities in the implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA);
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into such incidents, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government reviewed the implementation of the Act and observed any shortcomings; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and measures taken to address the issue?

A N S W E R

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

(a) to (d): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is now governed as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), 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 over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the 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 Governments/ UT Administrations, therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Central Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned, if required, for inquiry and appropriate action.

Implementation of the Act is reviewed on a regular basis through meetings with States/UTs at various levels. As a result of regular review, implementation of the Act has started in all the States/UTs.

With the objective to check leakages and diversion of foodgrains, removal of bogus/ ineligible ration cards and for improving targeting of food subsidy and transparency in PDS operations, Government is implementing a scheme of end-to-end Computerization of TPDS operations, which comprises of digitization of ration cards/ beneficiary and other databases, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievances redressal mechanisms etc. During the process of digitization of beneficiaries database, de-duplication, Aadhaar seeding, in the run up to implement of NFSA, 2.75 crore ration cards have been deleted due to detection of Ghost/ fraudulent/ duplicate/ ineligible/migration/deaths etc.
