

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3781
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2020

IRREGULARITIES IN PDS IN JHARKHAND

†3781. SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI:
SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:

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 complaints of corruptions/ irregularities in Public Distribution System (PDS) received from the State of Jharkhand during the last three years;
- (b) the results of the action taken by the Government on such complaints;
- (c) the number of persons found guilty in Jharkhand and the details of the rules under which Jharkhand has taken action against them; and
- (d) the results of the action taken above?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD &
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)

(a) to (d): Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments, wherein the operational responsibilities pertain with the State/UT. As and when complaints including Jharkhand are received in this Department from individuals, organizations as well as through media reports regarding any irregularities in the functioning of the PDS, including leakages & diversion of subsidized foodgrains thus not reaching to the intended beneficiaries, etc., they are forwarded to the concerned State/UT Government for inquiry and appropriate action at their end.

An offence committed in violation of the provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2015 is liable for penal action under the 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. In the year 2017, 35 complaints, in 2018, 33 complaints and in 2019, 17 complaints were received and forwarded to State Government of Jharkhand for necessary action at their end.

Also, the institutional mechanism for the monitoring and grievance redressal under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides setting up of Vigilance Committees, District Grievance Redressal Officers and independent State Food Commission for making the system more efficient and transparent.
