

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.406
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15th SEPTEMBER, 2020**

DISTRIBUTION OF SUB-STANDARD FOODGRAINS UNDER PDS

†406. SHRI RAVI KISHAN:

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

- (a) whether complaints have been received regarding the distribution of sub-standard foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS);**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken in this regard during the last three years, State-wise;**
- (c) the criteria laid down for quality for various food grains under PDS, food grain-wise;**
- (d) whether the Government monitors the quality of foodgrains being distributed through PDS;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the mechanism put in place in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (f) whether there is any grievance redressal system regarding the quality of food grains being supplied to the beneficiaries under PDS and if so, the details thereof?**

A N S W E R

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

(a) to (f): Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibilities of the Central and State/UT Governments. The Central Government through Food Corporation of India (FCI) is responsible for procurement, storage and allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs and for transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the FCI in the States/UTs, whereas, the operational responsibilities for allocation within the State/UT, transportation up to Fair Price Shops (FPSs), identification of eligible beneficiaries/ households, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains through FPSs, supervision & monitoring of FPS operations, etc. rest with the respective State/UT Government. Further, this

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Department has issued clear instructions to the FCI and all States/UTs to ensure that good quality foodgrains are supplied under PDS. Therefore, as and when, any complaints including distribution of sub-standard foodgrains under PDS from various sources are received in this Department, they are sent to the concerned State/UT Government for inquiry and appropriate action. A statement indicating State-wise number of complaints (various types) on TPDS received in the Department during the last three years 2017 to 2019 is at Annexure.

It is further stated that there is a set procedure/mechanism in place for the issuance of foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS). Surprise checks are also conducted at Foodgrain Storage Depots and Fair Price Shops to ensure the quality of foodgrains being supplied under PDS. The Department has issued following instructions to all States/UTs and FCI to ensure the supply of good quality foodgrains under PDS:

- i) Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes.
- ii) Ample opportunities are to be provided to the State Government/UTs Administration to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from FCI godowns. State/UTs may ensure that officers not below the rank of Inspector are deputed for inspection of the foodgrains before their lifting from FCI godowns.
- iii) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed from the stocks of foodgrains to be issued under the TPDS jointly by FCI and State Government/UT Administration.
- iv) An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from State Government to take the delivery of foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.
- v) Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Government.
- vi) It is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration to ensure that during transportation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.
- vii) The State Government, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes should meet the desired standards under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Besides above, the institutional mechanism for the monitoring and grievance redressal under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for setting up of Vigilance Committees at various levels, District Grievance Redressal Officers and independent State Food Commission for making the Public Distribution System more efficient and transparent.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.406 FOR ANSWER ON 15.09.2020 IN THE LOK SABHA.

**STATEMENT: COMPLAINTS ON TPDS RECEIVED IN THE
DEPARTMENT FROM INDIVIDUALS, ORGANISATIONS & THROUGH
MEDIA REPORTS ETC FROM 2017 TO 2019**

S. No.	State/UT	2017	2018	2019
1	Andhra Pradesh	10	6	6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1	1
3	Assam	17	7	8
4	Bihar	169	135	119
5	Chhattisgarh	9	9	7
6	Delhi	98	76	81
7	Goa	2	-	1
8	Gujarat	9	8	9
9	Haryana	47	35	39
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	1	1
11	J&K	4	5	3
12	Jharkhand	35	33	17
13	Karnataka	28	15	18
14	Kerala	13	11	11
15	Madhya Pradesh	21	24	26
16	Maharashtra	77	34	24
17	Manipur	2	2	-
18	Meghalaya	-	-	1
19	Mizoram	2	-	-
20	Nagaland	2	-	1
21	Orissa	22	16	16
22	Punjab	5	22	14
23	Rajasthan	82	38	24
24	Sikkim	-	-	-
25	Tamil Nadu	31	27	16
26	Telangana	4	3	3
27	Tripura	1	-	-
28	Uttarakhand	22	15	14
29	Uttar Pradesh	445	369	343
30	West Bengal	49	43	51
31	A&N Island	-	1	-
32	Chandigarh	-	2	-
33	D& N Haveli	-	-	-
34	Daman & Diu	-	-	-
35	Lakshadweep	-	1	-
36	Puducherry	1	2	1
TOTAL		1213	941	855
