

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1312  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021

IRREGULARITIES IN PDS

†1312. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:  
SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:

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 irregularities/diversion/corruption in the Public Distribution System (PDS), if so the details thereof;
- (b) the action taken during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any revision/evaluation of PDS recently, if so, the details thereof including the outcome thereof and action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any new initiatives to make PDS strong or to streamline, if so the details thereof;
- (e) whether any system has been started for disposal of complaints regarding corruption in PDS, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether any system exists for checking the quality of the food products distributed under PDS; if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) & (b): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibilities of the Central and the State/UT Governments, wherein the operational responsibilities, such as identification of beneficiaries/ households under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), issuance of ration cards to them, allocation of foodgrains to all Fair Price Shops (FPSs), distribution to beneficiaries, licensing & monitoring of FPSs, grievance redressal of beneficiaries including irregularities/ diversion/ corruption in TPDS operations, etc. lies with the concerned State/UT government. However, as and when any complaints are received in this Department from individuals, organizations as well as through media reports regarding any irregularities in the functioning of the TPDS are forwarded to the concerned State/UT Government for inquiry and appropriate action at their end. A State/UT wise statement showing number of complaints received in this Department during the last three years and current year up to 30.06.2021 is at Annexure -I.

Further, an offence committed in violation of the provisions of the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015 is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, the Order empowers all State/UT Governments to take punitive actions in case of contravention of the relevant provisions of the Order. During the last three years 2018 to 2020 and current year up to 30.06.2021, a Statement on actions pertaining to number of FPS licenses suspended/cancelled/ show-cause notices issued/ FIRs lodged by States/UTs is at Annexure-II.

(c): The Department had engaged 26 esteemed institutions/ universities as Monitoring Institutions (MIs) for conducting the 'Concurrent Evaluation of the implementation of NFSA' in States/UTs during 2018-20. The quarterly reports were shared with the respective States/UTs for remedial action, if any highlighted by MIs in the key areas of beneficiary management, FPS automation, supply chain management, portability of ration cards, cash transfers, etc. Taking a step forward, for the period 2020-23, the Department has engaged 12 MIs for concurrent evaluation exercise in States/UTs on implementation of NFSA and some thematic areas of PDS.

(d) & (e): To bring reforms in the functioning of TPDS, the Department in association with all States/UTs had implemented a scheme on 'End-to-End Computerization of TPDS Operations', comprising – digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries' data, computerization of supply chain management of foodgrains, setting up of online grievance redressal mechanisms & toll free helplines and the installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for transparent and efficient distribution of highly subsidised foodgrains to the targeted beneficiaries/ households under NFSA. Besides, Aadhaar seeding of beneficiaries with their ration cards is also being done to enable rightful targeting of beneficiaries. Presently, more than 70% of monthly allocated foodgrains to States/UTs are being distributed to beneficiaries through biometrically authenticated ePoS transactions on monthly basis. Further, portability of ration cards under One Nation One Ration Card plan is also enabled in 33 States/UTs covering almost 86.7% NFSA population (about 69 Crore NFSA beneficiaries) in the country to lift their foodgrains from any FPS of their choice in these States/UTs. Delhi being the latest to enable the same from July 2021.

**(f): 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 shall be issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes.**
- ii) Ample opportunities shall 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 shall 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 shall be deputed from State Government to take the delivery of foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.**
- v) Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains shall be carried out by the officers of State Government.**
- vi) It is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration shall 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).**

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a)&(b) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1312 FOR ANSWER ON 27.7.2021 IN THE LOK SABHA.**

**STATEMENT: COMPLAINTS ON TPDS RECEIVED IN THE DEPARTMENT  
FROM INDIVIDUALS, ORGANISATIONS & THROUGH MEDIA REPORTS ETC  
FROM 2018 TO 30.06.2021**

S. No.	State/UT	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	Andhra Pradesh	6	6	20	4
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	-	-
3	Assam	7	8	39	1
4	Bihar	135	119	335	97
5	Chhattisgarh	9	7	17	7
6	Delhi	76	81	186	93
7	Goa	-	1	-	-
8	Gujarat	8	9	36	10
9	Haryana	35	39	69	31
10	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	2	1
11	J&K	5	3	7	4
12	Jharkhand	33	17	49	87
13	Karnataka	15	18	69	10
14	Kerala	11	11	13	7
15	Madhya Pradesh	24	26	55	28
16	Maharashtra	34	24	150	42
17	Manipur	2	-	2	1
18	Meghalaya	-	1	1	-
19	Mizoram	-	-	-	-
20	Nagaland	-	1	1	-
21	Orissa	16	16	39	30
22	Punjab	22	14	32	8
23	Rajasthan	38	24	45	20
24	Sikkim	-	-	-	-
25	Tamil Nadu	27	16	46	23
26	Telangana	3	3	18	26
27	Tripura	-	-	3	1
28	Uttarakhand	15	14	27	14
29	Uttar Pradesh	369	343	589	-
30	West Bengal	43	51	213	63
31	A&N Island	1	-	-	-
32	Chandigarh	2	-	5	3
33	D& N Haveli	-	-	2	-
34	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-
35	Lakshadweep	1	-	-	-
36	Puducherry	2	1	6	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>941</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>2076</b>	<b>611</b>

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a)&(b) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1312 FOR ANSWER ON 27.7.2021 IN THE LOK SABHA.**

Statement showing results of action taken by the State/UT Governments under relevant clauses of the PDS/TPDS (Control) Orders as per receipt during last three years and current year 30.06.2021.

Sl. No. क्र.सं.	Name of the State/UT राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र का नाम	Year वर्ष	Number of FPS Licenses suspended/ Cancelled/Show cause notices issued/FIR Lodged निलंबित/रद्द उचित दर दुकान लाईसेंस/ जारी किए गए कारण बताओं नोटिस/ दर्ज प्राथमिकियों की संख्या
1	Andhra Pradesh आंध्र प्रदेश	2018	576
		2019	-
		2020	-
		2021	-
2	Assam असम	2018	-
		2019	82
		2020	-
		2021	-
3	Chhattisgarh	2018	-
		2019	50
		2020	09
		2021	-
4	Goa गोआ	2018	21
		2019	-
		2020	-
		2021	-
5	Gujarat गुजरात	2018	221
		2019	280
		2020	71
		2021	-
6	Karnataka कर्नाटक	2018	149
		2019	181
		2020	-
		2021	-
7	Kerala केरल	2018	3139
		2019	-
		2020	-
		2021	-
8	Odisha उड़ीसा	2018	21
		2019	08
		2020	-
		2021	-

9	Sikkim सिक्किम	2018	00
		2019 (upto June 19)	00
		2020	-
		2021	-
10	Tamil Nadu तमिलनाडु	2018	00
		2019	00
		2020	-
		2021	-
11	Tripura त्रिपुरा	2018	290
		2019	406
		2020	-
		2021	-
12	Uttar Pradesh उत्तर प्रदेश	2018 (April 18 – March,19)	9419
		2019(April 19 – Nov,19)	4486
		2020	-
		2021	-
13	A&N Islands अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह	2018	-
		2019	-
		2020	1
		2021	-
14	Puducherry पुडुचेरी	2018	00
		2019	00
		2020	-
		2021	-
Total जोड़		2018	13836
		2019	5493
		2020	81
		2021	-
			19410

Remarks: - No information received from other remaining state / UTs for aforesaid period.

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