

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1485  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**INCLUSION OF BENEFICIARIES UNDER PDS**

1485. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are included in the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to improve the quality of foodgrains provided through PDS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the strategies put in place to address leakages and corruption within the PDS?

**A N S W E R**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

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(a) & (b): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is now governed as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the Act is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/UT Governments. The Central Government is responsible for the procurement, allocation and transportation of food grains up to the designated depots of the FCI. The operational responsibilities for allocation and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries/families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

The Central Government has issued advisory, from time to time, to all the States/Union Territories to identify all eligible and poor persons/ households including vulnerable Sections of the Society for inclusion under the Act.

(c) & (d): Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to food safety standards are issued through the TPDS under the NFSA.

(e): The Act provides that every State Government shall put in place an internal grievance redressal mechanism, and appointment/ designation of a District Grievance Redressal Officer in each district for expeditious and effective redressal of grievances of the aggrieved persons in matters relating to the distribution of entitled foodgrains and to enforce the entitlements under the Act. The Act also provides for the constitution/ designation of the State Food Commission for monitoring and review of implementation of the Act.

Helpline number 1967/ 1800-State series number is operational in all the States/ UTs for contacting and redressal of their grievances and filing any type of complaints by the NFSA beneficiaries.

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 State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders.

As and when complaints including leakages and corruption are received in this Department from any source, they are sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

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