

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1497
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2024

SELLING FOODGRAINS THROUGH FPSS

1497. SHRI YOGENDER CHANDOLIA:

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

- (a) the details of the State Governments that have violated the rules of Gazette notifications dated 20th March, 2015 and 17th August, 2015 by not allowing commodities other than foodgrains to be sold through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the country and whether the Government has taken any action against those States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not implementing Rule 9(9) of the Gazette notification dated 20th March, 2015, which allows the sale of commodities other than foodgrains to improve the viability of FPS operations;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the Bharat Brand Scheme in its entirety including the second phase and to ensure sustained viability of FPSs in Delhi; and
- (d) the time by which the Government plans to comply with the afore-mentioned Gazette notifications and orders and allow the sale of other essential commodities through FPSs in Delhi?

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

(a) to (d) : The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) governed under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/ Union Territory (UT) Governments. 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 Governments. As per Clause 9(9) of the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, the State Government shall allow the sale of commodities other than the foodgrains distributed under TPDS at the fair price shop to improve the viability of the fair price shop operations.

As part of efforts to improve the viability of FPSs, Government of India has taken various initiatives and requested all State/UT Governments to implement additional services at the FPSs, including Common Service Centre (CSC) services, banking services through tie-up with banks/ corporate banking correspondents, banking and citizen-centric services of India Post Payment Bank (IPPB), retail sale of small (5kg) LPG cylinders and sale of other commodities/ general store items etc. Further, a pilot study is being conducted to improve the viability of 60 FPS across 4 cities i.e. Hyderabad, Ghaziabad, Jaipur and Ahmedabad. Govt of India under leadership of respective States is providing handholding assistance to these FPS shops by partnering with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for the provision of working capital and Business to Business (B2B) online wholesale aggregators for the sale of non-PDS items with a focus on nutritional items. Further, to address the skill development challenges, this Department has conducted capacity- building programs or short-term skill development courses through the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to boost the confidence of these FPS owners and equip them with the essential entrepreneurship skills required for venturing into new business avenues.

As per Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS (D)] policy for the year 2024-25, the sale of wheat and rice is allowed to Central Cooperative organizations, like NAFED/NCCF/ Kendriya Bhandar (retail Sale) for sale under Bharat Brand through own stores/ mobile vans and/or E-commerce/ big chain retailers only.
