

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5151
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND APRIL, 2025

DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS THROUGH FAIR PRICE SHOPS

5151. SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Fair Price Shops operating in West Bengal;
- (b) the quantity of subsidized foodgrains distributed through these shops during the last year;
- (c) the measures taken to check the diversion of subsidized foodgrains to open market; and
- (d) the action taken against erring Fair Price Shop dealers?

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

(a): As per information available in this Department, at present, 20,476 Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in West Bengal are involved in the distribution of foodgrains.

(b): A total quantity of 38.80 LMT of foodgrains have been distributed by Government of West Bengal during the last year i.e. 2024.

(c) to (d): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) governed under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/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, supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/ UT Governments.

Diversion of subsidized foodgrains to open market is an offence committed in violation of the provisions of TPDS (Control) Order, 2015 which 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 the relevant provisions of these Orders. A Statement showing results of action taken by the State Government West Bengal under relevant clause of the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015 is at **Annexure**.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5151 FOR ANSWER ON 02.04.2025 IN THE LOK SABHA.

Statement showing results of action taken by the State Government of West Bengal under relevant clauses of the TPDS (Control) Order 2015 (as on 31.12.2024)

Name of the State	Year	Number of Inspections	Number of raids conducted	Number of persons arrested/ prosecuted convicted	Number of FPS Licenses suspended/ Cancelled/ Show cause notices issued/ FIR Lodged
West Bengal	2015	7680	52	*	462
	2016	19619	233	*	41
	2017	36146	655	17	1841
	2018	43127	2057	19	2829
	2019	35378	581	15	2648
	2020	42840	222	57	3263
	2021	28994	156	42	4810
	2022-23	29995	98	59	3507
	2023	18422	2393	42	806
Total		262201	6447	251	20207

* Information not provided by State Government
