

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 258
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01ST DECEMBER, 2015

FUNCTIONING OF PDS

258. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

- (a) whether the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) was weakening year after year till the first quarter of 2014;
- (b) if so, the efforts made by the present Government to improve the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) in terms of items supplied, price etc.; and
- (c) the details of items being distributed through PDS, State-wise?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b): There have been some challenges such as leakages/diversion of foodgrains, inclusion/exclusion errors, existence of bogus/ineligible ration cards, non-viability of fair price shop operations, etc. that weaken the Public Distribution System. Further, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments wherein operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 dated 31.08.2001 notified in exercise of the powers conferred by the section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, mandates State/UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. The Order has since been superseded by the TPDS(C)Order, 2015 dated 20.03.2015 issued in consonance with National Food Security Act(NFSA), 2013.

State/UT Governments have been directed in July 2006 to implement a 9-point action plan for streamlining the working of TPDS. Further, strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous endeavour. To improve functioning of TPDS to curb leakage / diversion of foodgrains, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding meetings, conferences, etc. wherein State/UT Governments are requested for review of lists of beneficiaries, improving offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensure timely availability of foodgrains at FPSs, greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc.

The plan scheme on 'End-to-end computerization of TPDS operations' approved in October, 2012, comprises activities, namely- digitization of ration card/ beneficiary and other databases, computerization of supply chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms. The NFSA, 2013, also contains measures for reforms in TPDS, to be undertaken progressively by the Central and State/UT Governments. These reforms inter alia include door-step delivery of foodgrains at the FPS, application of ICT tools, preference to public institutions/bodies in licensing of FPSs, etc.

(c): Government allocates foodgrains (rice, wheat and coarse grains) and kerosene to all States/UTs for distribution through the FPS. Government also provides subsidy to States/UTs who procure and distribute Sugar under the PDS. In addition to above, some States/UTs are distributing other commodities like salt, edible oil, pulses etc. through the PDS outlets, details of which are at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 258 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 01.12.2015 IN THE LOK SABHA

Statement indicating commodities distributed by State Governments in addition to wheat, rice, coarse-grain, sugar and kerosene through PDS outlets.

(as on 30.6.2015)

S.No.	State/UT	Commodity
1	Andhra Pradesh	Iodized Salt, Red Gram Dal, Wheat Atta, Red Chilly Powder, Tamarind and Turmeric Powder.
2	Assam	Salt
3	Chattisgarh	Amrit Iodized Salt, Chana and Dal.
4	Gujarat	Iodized Salt
5	Haryana	Pulses (Chana Dal & Sabut Masur inter changeable)
6	Himachal Pradesh	Moong Whole, Dal Urd, Dal Chana
7	Kerala	Wheat Flour (Fortified)
8	Madhya Pradesh	Salt
9	Maharashtra	Palm Oil
10	Punjab	Pulses
11	Rajasthan	Tea (CTC), Washing Soap, Free Flow Iodized Salt, Red Chilli Powder, Turmeric Powder, Coriander Powder and Green Moong Dal.
12	Tamil Nadu	Toor Dhall, Urad Dhall and Palmolein Oil
13	Telengana	Redgram Dal, Wheat atta, Iodized salt, Red Chilli powder, Tamarind, Turmeric powder
14	Tripura	Iodised Salt
15	West Bengal	Mustard Oil, Biscuits, Toilet Soap, Laundry Soap, Detergent Powder, Haldi, Lanka, Dhania, Jeera, Papad, Exercise Book, Match Box, Incense Sticks, Phytofresh, Phytoclean, Black Phenyle, Comphora, Pynora, Naphtholine, Bleaching powder, Easyklin, Liquid soap, Dish-Washing Bar, Tea (CTC) and Iodized Salt, Fountain pen ink (Royal Blue), D.F. Pen, H.Gum, Soft Eraser, Score Line pencil, Tooth Paste,
16	Daman & Diu	Dal, Oil, Tooth-paste, match box etc.
