

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, by direct recruitment and departmental promotion had recently filled up a large number of vacancies in all the above categories.

However 19 vacancies belonging to SC and ST in the grade of Principal and about 1200 vacancies of teachers could not be filled due to the refusal of offers by direct recruit candidates/departmental promotees and non-availability of SC/ST candidates for certain categories of posts. Further efforts for recruitment/promotions are continuing.

For the smooth functioning of vidyalayas, wherever regular teachers are not available, the Principals are authorised to appoint teachers on contractual basis.

[Translation]

Public Distribution System

242. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission has given certain suggestions to the Government to bring comprehensive improvements to the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made in this regard;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated at national level for implementing these suggestions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The observations of the evaluation report on Revamped Public Distribution System given by Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission has been circulated to all State Governments/UTs for taking further necessary action. These points are also being reviewed in the meetings with State Governments as action on these observations are to be taken by the State Governments. As such no separate scheme has been formulated in this regard. The major findings and suggestions made by the PEO are as follows:-

- (i) The territorial area of Development Blocks and Integrated Tribal Development projects (ITDP) were not identical in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. All villages were not covered under RPDS in some of the identified Blocks in Madhya Pradesh.
- (ii) The doorsteps delivery was not in operation in

any of the fair price shop in the selected Blocks failing in Bihar, Kerala, Orissa and West Bengal. It was partially introduced in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

- (iii) Out of 64 selected villages, 25 villages were reported to be without fair price shops and selected households of 30 villages without ration cards. In some of the selected villages ration cards were either lost, destroyed, torned or became unusable but households were drawing ration.
- (iv) The storage facilities at Block level were found to be inadequate. The dependency on hired godowns was increasing instead of creating/constructing own godowns in government sector inspite of liberalising financial assistance by increasing subsidy component from 25% to 50%.
- (v) The vans used for doorstep delivery and Mobile Fair Price Shops were found to be inadequate. About 20% vans were not in functioning condition and required major repairs.
- (vi) Most of the Vigilance Committees were not functioning effectively for the purpose intended to.
- (vii) More than 60% of all commodities allotted were lifted, though allotment of commodities was not uniform or in proportion to the actual requirement of the States or the food habits of the people. The distribution of commodities covered under the Scheme was generally satisfactory.
- (viii) Prescribed norms for distribution of commodities were being generally followed by the FPS.
- (ix) The problems of fair price shops dealers were related to location of delivery centres, transportation of commodities fixation of margin money or commission, advance payment of cost of commodities and periodical delivery.
- (x) No payment of wages to the households worked under JRY/EAS was being made in kind through fair price shops in the selected States except Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. No linkage of RPDS was found with Nutrition Programme in any of the States.
- (xi) There was a mixed reaction of the selected households about the functioning of the fair price shops. Over 61% of the respondents reported positive about the regularity in opening of fair price shops, where as 30.28% reported negatively. Many of the respondents from the States of Bihar (75.29%), Karnataka (43.66%), Maharashtra (57.14%), Rajasthan (43.48%) and Tamil Nadu (100%) reported in negative about the opening of the fair price shops and scheduled working hours. However, to overcome the existing gaps in opening time, working hours,

regularity of distribution and communication to the consumers, effective steps have to be undertaken. There are some indications about the sub-standard quality, quantity as well as higher prices of the commodities at the fair price shops. A close supervision and monitoring is required for the purpose.

- (xii) It was observed that commodities were generally distributed regularly but in some cases irregular distribution with long gap was reported.
- (xiii) In case of wheat (60%) and Kerosene (67%), the consumers felt the quantity distributed was adequate whereas in case of sugar (61%) and rice (55%), the quantity distributed was reported to be inadequate in many places. The quality of commodities distributed through RPDS was reported to be generally "average" for wheat (69.08%), rice (57%) and sugar (57%).
- (xiv) Majority of respondents felt that the commodities, i.e. wheat (80.40%), rice (77.21%), sugar (89%) and kerosene (92.13%) as affordable.
- (xv) In some of the States, the beneficiaries have indicated their local needs and preferences for commodities which they would like to be distributed through RPDS. For example, in Rajasthan and Gujarat there are local demands for inclusion of maize, jowar and bajra, etc. in Kerala demand of rice was more in lieu of wheat. In West Bengal the distribution of local variety of rice was preferred. The study has indicated that there is a strong need to consider the local situation (socio-economic and cultural) regarding preference of commodities. Area specific approach need to be taken due to weightage in the scheme for addition and alteration of items under distribution.
- (xvi) According to the 'knowledgeable persons' the implementation of the RPDS was unsatisfactory due to irregular distribution of foodgrains, high transport cost and inadequate subsidy, non-lifting of commodities regularly and timely, underweighting of supply/distribution, replacement of good quality commodities at stock points/delivery centres, non-adhering of quality and procedure in distribution and non-existence of Vigilance Committees.

[English]

Kaziranga National Park

243. SHRI PROBEN DEKA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the incidents of illegal hunting and felling of trees in the Kaziranga National Park in Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received several complaints in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):

(a) According to the Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Assam there are no reports of illegal felling of trees except poaching of rhinos in the Kaziranga National Park.

(b) The number of rhinos killed by poachers during the last 4 years is given below :

1992	48
1993	40
1994	14
1995	21 (from 1.1.95 to 31.10.95)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The State Chief Wildlife warden has reported that patrolling has been intensified in the national park to control poaching of rhinos.

Loss Due to Monsoon

244. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to erratic monsoon this year, grape/onion production suffered badly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to help the farmers to overcome the loss;

(c) whether the Government proposed to waive/stagger repayment of loans taken by farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) As per information received from Government of Maharashtra, grapes/onion production has not suffered badly due to erratic monsoon.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) There is a provision in the Cooperative Credit System of Government of India by which in the event of Crop loss of 50% or more due to natural calamities, short term product loans disbursed to the farmers are converted into medium term loans. This enables farmers to take fresh short term production loans for the next crops season. There is also a centrally sponsored scheme called the Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund under which central assistance is provided to District Central Cooperative Banks to meet their requirements for conversion of short term loans into medium term loans.