

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:890
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003
UTILISATION CERTIFICATES UNDER PDS
RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA

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

- (a) whether the Government have decided to ask for utilisation certificates and social audit of food items given to various States under Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, whether State Governments have in principle agreed to give utilisation certificates to the Union Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) to what extent the social audit of food items is going to check diversion of food items allocated under PDS?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI S. MAHARIA)

(a),(b),(c)&(d): Under the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, the State Governments are required to furnish Utilisation Certificates confirming that the foodgrains lifted from the Central Pool have been distributed to the intended beneficiaries under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). These Certificates are being received from all the States/Union Territories except a few States/UTs. The Order also provides for ensuring proper system of monitoring of Fair Price Shops (FPS), regular inspections of FPSs not less than once in six months by the designated authority and meetings of the Vigilance Committees on the PDS at the State, District, Block and FPS level to be held on a regular basis.

States/UTs have been asked to actively involve the Gram Panchayats in rural areas and the local bodies in urban areas in monitoring of the functioning of the FPSs as a measure of social audit. These provisions are aimed at checking diversion of foodgrains allocated under the TPDS.