

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:125

ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004

STRENGTHENING OF PDS

Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba; Mane Smt. Nivedita; Patil Shri Prakash V.; Prasad Shri Hari Kewal; Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati; Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan; Sujatha Smt. C.S.; Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.; Vijay Krishna Shri ; Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

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

- (a) whether the Public Distribution System(PDS) have not been able to achieve its objective;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to strengthen and streamline the PDS to ensure that foodgrains reaches the needy sections of the society;
- (d) if so, the details of proposals worked out by the Government;
- (e) by when they are likely to be implemented;
- (f) whether the Government have conducted any study for issuing ration cards to the people living below poverty line; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ( DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH )

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c),(d)&(e): The Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities upto the Central godowns and the States are responsible for identification and issue of ration cards and their distribution to the consumers through a net work of about 4.76 lakh Fair Price Shops in the country. Streamlining of PDS with a view to make it more effective, efficient and accountable is an on going process. However, following measures have been taken so far in this regard:

(i) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been issued on 31st August, 2001 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 with a view to curb willful adulteration, substitution, diversion, theft of stocks from the Central godown to Fair Price Shops and at the premises of the FPS etc.

(ii) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been launched in December 2000 for one crore poorest of the poor amongst BPL families. The coverage has been expanded to 1.5 crore households in the year 2003.

(iii) States/UTs have been asked to actively involve the Gram Panchayats in rural areas and local bodies in urban areas in the monitoring of Fair Price Shop as a measure of social audit.

(iv) A model Citizen`s Charter has been issued to all the States/UTs for adoption.

(f): No, Sir.

(g): Does not arise.