

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3744
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007
REVIEW OF PDS
Mehta Shri Alok Kumar;Mondal Shri Abu Ayes

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to review the Public Distribution Systems (PDS) throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to distribute grains to poor people through some new system;
- (d) if so, the details of the proposed system;
- (e) whether the Government has developed techniques in the new system to prevent the present malpractices; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Review of functioning of Targetted Public Distribution System is a continuously on-going process. The Ministry reviews its various aspects with representatives of State/UT Governments. The latest review meetings of State and UT Food Secretaries have been held on 11.4.2007 and 6.8.2007, in which the State/UT Governments were requested once again to take necessary measures for curbing leakages and diversion of foodgrains meant for TPDS and to implement the nine point action plan, formulated by the Central Government in 2006 for strengthening of TPDS. Details of this action plan are enclosed in Annexure-I.

In the review meeting of State/UT Food Secretaries held on 6.8.2007, the findings of the report on 61st Round of NSS survey 2004-05 were also discussed and copies of the report have been issued to State /UT Governments. They have been requested to use the findings of this report to assess critically performance of TPDS in their respective States and UTs and take action for this improvement.

Additionally, a revised Citizen's Charter has been issued recently for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments for facilitating use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.

(c): No, Sir.

(d),(e)&(f): Question does not arise.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3744 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 10.09.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA.

ACTION PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING OF TPDS

- (i) Continuous review of the BPL and AAY lists to eliminate bogus ration cards and to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and Antyodaya families.
- (ii) Ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities, regular inspection by different levels of functionaries, strict action against guilty persons/agencies.
- (iii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations - PRI representatives on Advisory Committees, running of fair price shops by Panchayats and effective representation of Panchayati Raj representatives on Vigilance Committees.
- (iv) Ensuring transparency in working of PDS, display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops, observance of notified timings by fair price shops.

(v) Use of Information Technology, Computerization of TPDS operations, display of fair price shop-wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.

(vi) Carryout door-step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops.

(vii) Ensuring timely availability of and issuance of foodgrains by fair price shops.

(viii) Creating awareness among public about PDS operations, training Vigilance Committees of intricacies of PDS operations.

(ix) Making fair price shops financially viable entities - allowing them to sell non PDS items etc.