

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1093  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2000  
IMPROVEMENT OF PDS  
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);P.R. KHUTE

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

(a) whether the Government propose to take measures to bring about improvement in the Public Distribution System at the Union Territory/State level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ( SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN )

(a) & (b) : PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of PDS commodities up to the central godowns and making them available to the State Governments. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and administration of PDS rests with State Governments/UT Administrations. In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities in PDS to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner a Model Citizens' Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption. Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government also have advised the State Governments to more substantially involve Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

State Governments have been regularly requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and other levels and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner. They have also been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiate action against erring FPS owners under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1995. The Government of India have set up Public Grievances' Redressal Cell in the Department of Public Distribution to attend to the complaints relating to any aspect of the Department's functioning including the Public Distribution System. The Government of India has appointed Area Officers to States/UTs to monitor the function of Public Distribution System including the complaints of diversion. The observations made by Area Officers are sent to the respective States/UTs for taking appropriate action. Government has had discussions with State Governments under the aegis of Advisory Council on Foodgrains Management and Public Distribution wherein issues relating to better targeting, rationalisation of prices, effective monitoring system as well as other related issues on PDS have been deliberated upon at length.