

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5988  
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001  
SALE OF PDS ITEMS AT HIGHER RATES  
BISHNU PADA RAY

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware that PDS items are being sold at higher rates in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as compared to other parts of the country due to inter-island transportation cost;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have received any representation that this inter-island transportation service cost might be borne by the Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): No, Sir. As per the reports received, the retail issue price of foodgrains under TPDS in Andaman & Nicobar Islands for BPL families is comparable to other parts of the country.

(c)&(d): Yes Sir. Government have received a representations stating that A&N Administration has to bear substantial transportation, labour and handling costs for transporting the foodgrains to Fair Price Shop located in various inhabited islands. It has been requested that transport subsidy for transportation of PDS food grains to various inhabited islands may be provided by Government of India.

A proposal to open six new Principal Distribution Centres (PDCs) is under consideration of the Government.