

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1136
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2001
EXPENDITURE REFORMS COMMISSION
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

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

- (a) Whether any Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up in his Ministry to give his recommendations for reducing the existing wasteful expenditure of his Ministry and departments under his Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of recommendations made by this commission so far;
- (d) the details of those recommendations which are yet to be implemented by his Ministry or departments under his Ministry along with reasons for not implementing them till date and;
- (e) by when these are likely to be implemented?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The Seventh Report of the Expenditure Reforms Commission which deals with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has been received recently. A summary of the recommendations made by the Expenditure Reforms Commission in its report on the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is at Annexure. Since major issues are involved in implementation of these recommendations, it is not possible to lay down a time frame in this regard.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d)&(e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION 1136 FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 23.11.2001

SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EXPENDITURE REFORMS COMMISSION.

SL.No. BRIEF SUBJECT

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

1. The Minimum Support Price, as the nomenclature implies, should be such as to encourage farmers to sell their marketable surplus in the open market in the normal course.
2. State Governments and the private sector should be encouraged to take up procurement, trade and export of food grains with the assurance of continuity of policy over the long term.
3. The quantities to be procured / purchased by FCI should be limited to what is required for replenishing the food security buffer stock and for meeting the PDS requirements of those states which request FCI to undertake purchases on their behalf.
4. Save Grain Campaign (SGC) Scheme should be discontinued.
5. The Indian Grain Storage Management & Research Institute (IGMRI) should be closed down.
6. The Quality Control Cells (QCC) and the Central Grain Analysis Laboratory need to be strengthened.
7. The decontrol of sugar should be put through within the current year.
8. The Directorate of Sugar needs to be closed down.
9. The National Institute of Sugar and Sugar Technology (Mau) should be closed down and the facilities transferred to a nearby Agricultural University or Training Centre.
10. The National Sugar Institute (Kanpur) should be restructured and made the focal point for technological inventions and for

addressing the training needs of the changing technical manpower needs of this sector.

11. The downsized Sugar Division should focus on administration of the Sugar Development Fund (which could have as its thrust promotion of diversified uses of sugarcane) and reorganization of NSI.

12. The closure of the Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Limited should be expedited; the Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils and Fats should be wound up.

13. The number of Joint Secretaries in the department should be reduced to three and the staff strength at the support level suitably downsized.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

14. The arrangements for monitoring of prices need to be improved.

15. The Forward Markets Commission needs to be strengthened.

16. The process of review under the Black Marketing of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act should be utilized for reviewing the procedures adopted for determining detention cases.

17. Government should divest its holding in the Super Bazaar and the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India. If this is not found feasible then government should move for the liquidation of both societies.

18. There should be a periodical review of the utilization of the Consumer Welfare Fund with a view to optimizing the use of these funds.

19. The Consumer Court's outreach needs to be strengthened.

20. The BIS should be made a professional body with a broad based board with adequate representation for scientific and technical persons from academic institutions. There is a case for giving it full autonomy.

21. The NTH, to start with, should be placed under the department and the merger of NTH and BIS settled on the basis of a detailed study of the functions and activities of both organizations.

22. In the department there is no case for having a Secretary as well as an Additional Secretary. The post of Joint Secretary should therefore be operated only at that level and not filled up by an Additional Secretary level officer.

23. The Desk Officer System should be introduced in this department. This along with induction of IT facilities should lead to a considerable downsizing of the support staff requirement in this department.