

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5791

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003

FAILURE OF PDS

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;CHADA SURESH REDDY;PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to organise a meeting to totally revamp the public distribution system so as to cover all the poor in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have analysed the reasons for the failure of PDS in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken to tone up PDS in the country?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes Sir. It is proposed to hold an All Party Meeting to discuss steps to strengthen the Public Distribution System in the country.

(c),(d)&(e): The Public Distribution System 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 4.75 lakh Fair Price Shops in the country. Regular review, streamlining of PDS and taking corrective measure is an on going process. In order to make the PDS more effective, efficient and accountable, following measures have been taken: -

(1) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order has been issued on 31.08.2001 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. As per the provisions of the Order, wilful adulteration, substitution, diversion, theft of stocks from the Central godowns to fair price shops or at premises of the fair price shops shall be liable for criminal punishment under Section 7 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The Order also provides for the following:-

(a) State Governments shall ensure a proper system of monitoring of fair price shops and prescribe model sale register, stock register and ration card register.

(b) State Governments shall ensure regular inspections of fair price shops not less than once in six months by the designated authority. State Governments may issue orders specifying the inspection schedule, list of check points and the authority responsible for ensuring compliance with the said orders.

(c) Meetings of the Vigilance Committees on the Public Distribution System at the State, District, Block and FPD level shall be held on a regular basis. The date and periodicity shall be notified by the State Government. However, the periodicity shall not be less than one meeting a quarter at all levels.

(2) States/UTs have been asked to actively involve the Gram Panchayats in rural areas and the local bodies in urban areas in the monitoring of the functioning of fair price shops as a measure of social audit.

(3) In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under PDS to the Consumer in a transparent and accountable manner, a model Citizen's Charter has been issued by Central Government for adoption by the State Governments.