

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5770
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
DADICHILUKA VEERA GOURI SANKARA RAO

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

- (a) whether lack of supervision has affected Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country; and
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to tone up vigilance mechanism to end the continued malpractices by dealers of fair price shops?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 provides for stringent punishment under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against fair price shop owners for malpractices. The order provides the procedure for monitoring of the Public Distribution System including the functioning of the Fair Price Shops (FPS) by the State Governments as under:-

- (i) State Governments shall ensure a proper system of monitoring of fair price shops and prescribe model sale register, stock register and ration card register.
- (ii) State Governments shall ensure regular inspection 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.
- (iii) Meetings of the Vigilance Committees on the Public Distribution System at the State, District, Block and FPS 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.