

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:284
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000
REVIEW OF PDS
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

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

- (a) whether the Government have reviewed/propose to review the Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith outcome of the review;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (d) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to ensure complete success of PDS in achieving its target?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c) & (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO~~284~~ ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 11-8-2000.

(a), (b) & (c) : The working of the Public Distribution System is under constant monitoring and review in Government just like all schemes, on the basis of inputs being received from various quarters including State Governments.

(d) A series of measures have been taken by the Government for successful implementation of the Public Distribution System in the country.

(i) From 1.4.2000, in order to better targetise and channelise the subsidy towards the target population viz., the families living below the poverty line (BPL), the allocation of foodgrains for them has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month at 50% of Economic cost.

(ii) Allocation to families living above the poverty line (APL) has been maintained at the same level as at the time of introduction of TPDS at economic cost.

(iii) Distribution of sugar under PDS has been discontinued to the Income-Tax assesses with effect from 1.7.2000.

(iv) The States have been asked to formulate and implement foolproof arrangements for delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops and for its distribution in a transparent and accountable manner.

(v) Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the State Governments have been advised to more substantially involve Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

(vi) The Model Citizens` Charter containing, inter-alia basic information of interest to the consumers and a model procedure and time schedule for the services has been circulated to the State Governments for adoption.

(vii) Senior officers of the Government of India in the Department of Food and Public Distribution, also inspect the fair price shops from time to time in order to check the supply and availability of PDS commodities at the FPS.

(viii) States are encouraged to include additional items of daily use for distribution under PDS as per local priority in order to improve the viability of FPS as well as making quality items available at affordable prices to the consumers.