

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:452
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2000
SETTING UP OF MONITORING COMMITTEE
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL

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

- (a) whether several State Governments have not constituted Monitoring Committee for Public Distribution System as on date;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government have had any interaction with the State Governments who have not constituted the Monitoring Committee; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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 STARRED QUESTION NO. 452 OR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 25-8-2000.

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The concept of Monitoring Committee in the form of Vigilance Committees has been an important constituent of Public Distribution System (PDS) since long.

All the State Governments /UTs except Goa and Daman & Diu have informed regarding constitution of vigilance committees at various levels viz., Block, District and State for monitoring the functioning of TPDS.

(c) and (d) As per PDS guidelines issued in March, 1987 and TPDS guidelines issued in February, 1997 State Government have been advised to constitute Vigilance Committees as a measure of social audit of the working of PDS in the country. In the Model Citizens' Charter issued in November, 1997 for adoption by State Governments, constitution of Vigilance Committees by State Governments at the level of Panchayat/Ward, Taluk, District and State/UT has also been emphasised. Panchayati Raj Institutions guidelines issued in June, 1999, also state that the Gram Panchayat/Gram Sabha should be encouraged to form FPS committees which should include members of existing Vigilance Committees from the FPS of the area and also representatives of consumer groups, women, as well as members of SC/ST/OBCs. Under the TPDS monitoring system the State Governments are required to furnish information on the number of meetings of the Vigilance Committees held during the month at FPS, Block and District level. This issue was also discussed in the recently held advisory council meetings on foodgrains management and public distribution amongst other issues relating to monitoring of PDS in the country.