

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:381
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR PDS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether there is a proposal to set up vigilance committees for better monitoring of Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the names of States where such vigilance committees have already been set up;
- (c) whether most of the States have failed to set up such committees;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government has taken up the matter with the concerned State Governments;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the other steps taken to ensure smooth functioning of PDS?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), & (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 381 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 19.12.2005 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f): Instructions have been issued from time to time for setting up of Vigilance Committees for better monitoring of the Public Distribution System.

The Central Government has been requesting the State Governments/UTs from time to time to activate these Committees and reconstitute them, if not done so already, by associating members from amongst the cardholders, consumer activists as well as peoples' representatives. In the Model Citizens' Charter, constitution of Vigilance Committees by State Governments at the level of Panchayat/Ward, Taluk, District and State/UT have also been emphasized. In the guidelines issued in June, 1999 for the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the implementation of TPDS, it is mentioned that the Gram Panchayat / Gram Sabha should be encouraged to form FPS Committees. The main functions of Vigilance Committee are to ensure smooth functioning of PDS and redressal of problems related with it. Vigilance Committees are at present functioning at FPS level, Block/Mandal/Taluk level, District level and State level in most of the States/UTs. The status of constitution of Vigilance Committees in the States/UTs is annexed.

Recently, all States/UTs were again requested to constitute Vigilance Committees at Village, Block, District and State level under the Chairmanship of Sarpanch, Pradhan, Zilla Pramukh and Food Minister/Secretary respectively.

(g): Improving the efficiency and accountability for smooth functioning of the TPDS is an ongoing process. Besides notification of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, Model Citizen's Charter, visit of Area Officers to check irregularities and to inspect and monitor the TPDS and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Conferences of State Food Secretaries, State Food Ministers, meeting with All India Fair Price Shops Dealers Federation and a meeting with all the Members of Parliament was organized for strengthening of TPDS. Regional Conferences are also being held with focus on the unique problems of the region and to facilitate strengthening of the TPDS in a manner, which may be relevant to the local environment.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 381 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 19.12.2005 IN THE LOK SABHA.

Status Papers on Vigilance Committees

S. No. State/UT Level at which set up

1. Andhra Pradesh All level
2. Arunachal Pradesh All level
3. Assam All level
4. Bihar Information not received
5. Chattisgarh FPS level
6. Delhi At all Circles
- 7 Goa Under consideration
8. Gujarat All level
9. Haryana All level
10. Himachal Pradesh FPS & District level
11. Jammu & Kashmir All level
12. Jharkhand All level
13. Karnataka FPS & District level
14. Kerala All level
15. Madhya Pradesh Information not received
16. Maharashtra All level
17. Manipur FPS level
18. Meghalaya All level
19. Mizoram All level
20. Nagaland All level
21. Orissa All level
22. Punjab District & Block level
23. Rajasthan All level
24. Sikkim Information not received
25. Tamil Nadu All level
26. Tripura All level
27. Uttaranchal Information not received
28. Uttar Pradesh Govt. issued instructions to all DMs to constitute vigilance committee
29. West Bengal All level
30. A & N Islands Village & District level
31. Chandigarh FPS level
32. D & N Haveli Various level
33. Daman & Diu Information not received
34. Lakshdweep Each Island
35. Pondicherry State & Zonal level