

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3739
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004
PDS IN TRIBAL AREAS
Singh Shri Sugrib

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

(a) whether the Government has finalised any proposal to streamline the Public Distribution System in the hilly, tribal and inaccessible areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and guidelines sent to the State Governments in this regard?;

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): The Public Distribution System is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for the procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities up to the Central godowns and the States are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issue of Ration Cards and their distribution through the Fair Price Shops (FPS). Regular review for the purpose of streamlining the PDS in the country including the hilly, tribal and inaccessible areas and initiating corrective steps is an on going process, the following measures have been taken to streamline the PDS:

(i) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 was issued by the Government of India in order to streamline the functioning of the PDS and to make the same more effective and accountable. Any offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order invokes criminal liability under Section of 7 of the Essential commodities Act, 1955;

(ii) The State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations have been asked to actively involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions to monitor the functioning of the Fair Price Shops, as a measure of social audit;

(iii) The States and Union Territories have also been asked to constitute Vigilance Committees at the State, District, Block and FPS levels to oversee the functioning of PDS.

(iv) With a view to efficiently reaching PDS commodities to the consumers in a transparent manner, a model Citizen's Charter has been issued by the Central Government for adoption by the State Governments/UT Administrations;

(v) A Task Force has been constituted to look into irregularities in the implementation of the TPDS and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana in the identified areas. The shortcomings/irregularities noticed by the Task Force Teams are forwarded to the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for urgent remedial action.