

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:334
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
MONITORING OF PDS
Sai Shri Nand Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has appointed Area Officers for monitoring of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the nature of the duties performed by the said officers;
- (c) whether the Union Government has made any assessment of the Area Officers Scheme during the last two years;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the extent to which the said scheme has been successful in improving the functioning of the PDS?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 334 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2008 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented under joint responsibility of Central Government and State/UT Governments. There is sharing of responsibilities between Central Government and State/UT Governments in this regard. Apart from TPDS, some Central/centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry are also implemented by State/UT Governments.

For better coordination between Central Government and State/UT Governments for implementing TPDS and other schemes, an arrangement of field visits by senior officers of the Department was introduced in 2000. These officers were termed as Area Officers and specific States and UTs were assigned to them for field visits.

The Area Officers were to make field visits in the assigned States/UTs to assess functioning of TPDS and progress of schemes. This arrangement of Area Officers was reviewed especially for its effectiveness. Field visits of officers brought feed-back on TPDS and other schemes, which was shared with concerned State and UT Governments for improvement. Due to exigencies of office work, however, such field visits have been less.