

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:432
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010
COMMITTEE ON PDS
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

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

(a) whether the Government has constituted three high powered committees of Chief Ministers and Union Ministers to recommend ways of improving the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details 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 (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): In pursuance of decisions taken in the first meeting of the Core Group of Central Ministers and State Chief Ministers regarding prices of essential commodities held on 08-04-2010 the following three Working Groups have been constituted;

1. Working Group on Agriculture Production
2. Working Group on Consumer Affairs
3. Working Group on Food and Public Distribution

(b): The Working Group on Food and Public Distribution is chaired by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and includes Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister, Assam and Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister as other Members.

The Working Group will deliberate on and recommend measures for better and effective delivery of essential commodities to the vulnerable sections of the society and augmentation of warehouses & storage capacity including cold chain.

Terms of Reference of the Group includes suggestions of strategies/plans of action, inter-alia, for:

- (i) Finalizing number of BPL beneficiaries
- (ii) Streamlining and strengthening TPDS
- (iii) Web enabled computerization of PDS System (including FCI godowns)
- (iv) Enhancing storage capacity