

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1406
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010
FOOD STAMPS
Balram Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to issue food stamps to replace the Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the views/suggestions received in this regard;
- (c) whether FICCI has proposed that the food stamps should go with compulsory participation of adult members of Below Poverty Line families in special sector schemes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

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) to (d): FICCI in its report on PDS of April 2010 has, inter-alia, mentioned that the Agriculture Committee of the FICCI has suggested that 'Food Stamps' under Public Distribution System be initiated as direct income transfer to the poor and disadvantaged people would be more efficient than the system of price subsidy. The maximum amount of food stamp per household should be contingent upon family size and minimum calories required per individual (that can be achieved with a low-cost nutritious diet).

Additional food stamps assistance above the minimum threshold should be provided for extracting expected behaviours from beneficiaries. While calculating incentives for eligible beneficiary households, it should be ensured that the adult beneficiaries should mandatorily participate in other self employment and training schemes like Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGREGA), etc, apart from other considerations.

Presently, there is no proposal to issue food stamps to replace the existing Targeted Public Distribution System.