

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2258  
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009  
ABHIJEET SEN COMMITTEE ON TPDS  
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

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

- (a) whether the Abhijit Sen Committee has recommended discontinuation of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the status of implementation of the other recommendations made by the said Committee?

**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)&(b): A High Level Committee (HLC) was constituted on 16th November, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, the then Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices for formulating a long term grain policy for the country, had inter-alia recommended that there should be an immediate shift to unified PDS with Central Issue Prices being fixed on the basis of acquisition cost.

It was however, felt by the Government that the Targetted PDS, introduced in June, 1997, with a view to target the unprivileged sections of society, as the earlier Universal PDS did not adequately focus on the hungry and had urban bias. It was therefore, felt that the introduction of universal PDS would result in the PDS losing its focus on meeting the needs of the poor.

(c): A statement showing the status report on the implementation of the 13 main recommendations made by High Level Committee is at Annexure.