

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3248
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011
COMMUNITY KITCHENS
Saroj Smt. Sushila

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has advised the Government to set up community kitchens to provide food to the poor shelterless people in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Justice Wadhwa Committee has recommended that the corporate sector may be handed over the responsibility to provide food to the poor and hungry people; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): Central Vigilance Committee on Public Distribution System, headed by Justice (Retd.) D.P. Wadhwa, has submitted its report dated 21.07.2011 to the Hon'ble Supreme Court stating inter-alia that the Committee has devised a scheme of Community Kitchen. The Committee has further stated that under this scheme, poor persons in the backward districts will be able to avail cooked meals from kitchens located at selected areas in the district headquarters like Collectorates, city hospitals, bus stops, vans etc. For the said purpose, the Committee has sought the help of corporations, under corporate social responsibility so that poor people get food free or at nominal cost. However, no such directions for setting up of Community Kitchens have been given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to the Government in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196/2001.