

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3318

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011

COMPUTERISATION OF PDS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Singh Shri Dushyant;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to computerise the Public Distribution System (PDS) to check corruption and pilferage;
- (b) if so, the time by which PDS is likely to be fully computerised;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has made any recommendation to the Government to adopt methods similar to those adopted by the retail giants Marks and Spencer and Walmart in the PDS so as to avoid pilferage and corruption; 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) and (b): Government of India has taken up the computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in a phased manner to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the TPDS. In the first phase, the scheme on Computerization of TPDS Operations had been approved to be implemented on pilot basis in three districts each of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Delhi. A pilot scheme on Smart Card based delivery of essential commodities had been initiated in Chandigarh UT and Haryana. Under the scheme, existing ration cards were to be replaced by Smart Cards.

(c) and (d): Department of Food & Public Distribution is not aware of such recommendation made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the recent orders passed relating to TPDS in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196/2001.