

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3355
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011
AREA OFFICERS UNDER PDS
Kashinath Shri Taware Suresh

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has appointed Area Officers for monitoring of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the nature of the duties performed by the said officers;
- (c) whether the Union Government has made any assessment of the Area Officers Scheme during the last two years;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the extent to which the said scheme has been successful in improving the functioning of the PDS?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented under joint responsibility of Central Government and State/UT Governments. Apart from TPDS, some Central/centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry are also implemented by State/UT Governments.

For better coordination between Central Government and State/UT Governments for implementing TPDS and other schemes, an arrangement of field visits by officers of the Department was introduced in 2000. These officers are termed as Area Officers and specific States and UTs are assigned to them for field visits. The Area Officers make field visits in the assigned States/UTs to assess the functioning of TPDS and progress of the schemes. This arrangement of Area Officers has been reviewed for increasing its effectiveness. A Handbook for Area Officers for Monitoring of TPDS and Other Schemes has been prepared for use by all Area Officers. The feedback received from the Area Officers on TPDS and other schemes is shared with concerned State and UT Governments for improving the functioning of TPDS.