

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2087

ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012

TASK FORCE ON PDS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has ignored the Nilekani Task Force report for making UID central to the information technology reforms in the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the major recommendations made by the Task Force;
- (c) whether the Union Government has framed detailed guidelines for computerisation based on a platform developed by the National Informatic Centre called the PDS Common Services Platform;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the present status of the Public Distribution System Network?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): A Task Force had been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to recommend and implement a solution for direct transfer of subsidies on Kerosene, LPG and Fertilizer to the intended beneficiaries. The terms of reference of the Task Force were extended to cover reforms of Public Distribution System (PDS) including an IT Strategy for PDS. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 02.11.2011.

The Task Force in its report has inter-alia recommended the setting up of a dedicated institutional mechanism to implement end-to-end computerization of PDS across the country called the PDS Network (PDSN), which will implement and operate the Information Technology (IT) infrastructure for PDS. It further mentions that a common software platform for PDS can be developed for all States, with the flexibility to configure policies, prices and administrative structures.

(c)&(d): Detailed guidelines for Computerization of TPDS have been sent to all States/UTs. A PDS Common Services Platform has been prepared by National Informatics Centre (NIC), which could be used by the States to computerize their PDS operations.

The salient features of application software, namely, Smart card application software, Supply Chain Computerization (Chhattisgarh model) and Food Coupon and Bar Coded Ration Cards (Gujarat model) have also been sent to all States/UTs. States/UTs have been requested to select the modules as per their specific requirements and prepare an implementation plan in consultation with NIC. Further, directions alongwith timelines for achievement of various milestones towards Computerization of PDS have also been sent to all States/UTs.

(e): Government is taking further action to set up the PDS Network.