

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5267
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
REPORT OF TASK FORCE ON PDS
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) whether the task force headed by Nandan Nilekani has submitted any report on Public Distribution System to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has accepted the said report;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to hold consultations with the stakeholders involved therein regarding the implementation of the task force report; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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) to (e) : The Department is in the process of setting up the PDSN. All States/UTs have been requested to send their willingness to participate in the PDSN. An Approach Paper prepared by National Informatics Centre (NIC) for creation of the proposed institutional mechanism, namely, PDSN, has also been sent to all States/UTs and other concerned agencies for their views / comments. Further, an ad-hoc core team has been set up in the Department for working on incubation of PDSN, establishing a Mission Directorate, etc. based on consultations with various stakeholders.