

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:652
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012
COMPUTERISED OUTLETS OF PDS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the process of computerisation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) outlets has been initiated in various States under the end-to-end computerisation programme of the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such outlets computerised till date, State and UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated any steps to fast track this process; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which all such outlets are proposed to be computerised?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.652 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 22.05.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b) : All States/UTs have been requested to undertake end-to-end Computerisation of Public Distribution System (PDS) which includes Fair Price Shop (FPS) Automation, Computerisation of Supply-Chain, Digitization of Ration Card Database, SMS / email alerts on dispatch and delivery of foodgrains, setting up of Transparency Portal, Toll-free number for grievance redressal, etc.

As per reports received from States/UTs, there are over 5.06 lakh FPS in the country. FPS Automation has been initiated in States like Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu. However, State and UT-wise number of FPSs computerised till date is not available in the Department.

(c) & (d): A number of measures have been taken by this Department to fast track the process of computerisation of PDS. Computerisation of PDS has been taken up as a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) by the Central Government. As per MMP guidelines, a dedicated institutional mechanism by way of an Empowered Committee (EC) and a Central Project e-Mission Team (CPeMT) for computerisation of PDS has been set up. States/UTs have also been requested to establish a two-tier structure at their level comprising a State Apex Committee as well as a State Project e-Mission Team (SPeMT).

Detailed guidelines for end-to-end Computerisation of PDS have been issued to all States/UTs covering various aspects such as the components of computerisation, software options, institutional mechanism, action plans of States, financial support, etc. Action Plan for computerisation of PDS have been received from 34 States/UTs. Details of PDS application software have been sent by the Department to all States/UTs. The application software prepared by National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been shared by it with State Information Officers (SIOs) of NIC. Infrastructural and financial support would be provided to States/UTs for Computerisation under the Plan Scheme for end-to-end Computerisation of PDS.

Secretary (F&PD) has been appointed the Chief Coordinator of computerisation programme vide Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 3.2.2012. Detailed directions to the Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States/UTs have been conveyed by the Chief Coordinator for achieving prescribed milestones.

Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on 20.04.2012 at New Delhi for development and implementation of additional Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) computerisation projects based on the WFP model in Rayagada district of Odisha.

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 setting up of PDSN.

To ensure timely implementation of Computerisation of PDS, the progress is being reviewed in various meetings. A Conference was

also held on 8th & 9th February, 2012 where the issue of timelines for achievement of various milestones was discussed. As per the timelines sent to States/UTs, FPS automation is to be completed by all States/UTs by March, 2014.