

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:424
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
FAIR PRICE SHOPS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court appointed high power committee has recommended nationalisation of fair price shops being presently run by the private parties;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the number of private and Government run Fair Price Shops in the country at present;
- (c) whether the directions issued by the Supreme Court earlier with regard to Public Distribution System has not been adhered to by the Union as well as the State Governments;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure compliance of the directions issued by the Supreme Court?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Central Vigilance Committee (CVC) with Justice D.P. Wadhwa as Chairman was set up by Hon'ble Supreme Court to look into maladies affecting functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) and to suggest remedial measures. In pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 17.09.2012, the CVC in its final report submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court summarizing its recommendations has inter-alia recommended that Fair Price Shops (FPSs) should not be run by private individuals. Wherever FPS is operated by private individuals, they should be phased out gradually and their place be taken over by Civil Supplies Corporation run FPSs. Further, till such Corporations are established, FPSs wherever established should be allotted either to multipurpose cooperative, registered women self help group, etc.

As the allotment of FPSs comes within the purview of the State Governments / UT Administrations, further action in the matter is to be taken by them.

Specific information regarding private and Government run FPSs is not maintained in the Department. However, as reported by States / UTs up to 31.12.2012, there are a total of 5,15,344 FPSs in the country out of which 93830 FPSs are run by Cooperatives, 15253 FPSs by Women Self Help Groups, 9332 FPSs by Village Panchayats, 1914 FPSs by Self Help Groups and 486 FPSs by Urban Local Bodies.

(c) to (e) Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued various directions from time to time with regard to PDS in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196 of 2001 – People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL) Vs Union of India and Others to the Central as well as State / UT Governments. Central Government has filed affidavits explaining its position on various issues in the matter from time to time in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. States/UTs are also required to file their response to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Wherever required, Central Government has also conveyed the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to States / UTs for appropriate action at their end.