

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:213

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013

REFORMS IN PDS

Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Dias Dr. Charles

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

- (a) whether the Government has received some recommendations to be adopted as short term and long term measures for improving the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the action plan formulated for its implementation;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any directives/advisories to the States to strengthen PDS and ensure supply of foodgrains to the poor; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response received thereon, State/UT-wise?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c) & (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. 213 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 12.03.2013 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) & (b): A Central Vigilance Committee (CVC) with Justice (Retd.) 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 has submitted a final report to the Hon'ble Supreme Court summarizing its recommendations on the functioning of PDS. The Committee has bifurcated its recommendations into long term and short term. The long term recommendations include (i) constitution of Civil Supply Corporation in every State/Union Territory (UT) and (ii) Computerization of whole PDS operations. The short term measures were mainly on issues namely (i) Identification of beneficiaries / Inclusion and Exclusion errors (ii) Storage capacity (iii) Transportation of PDS foodgrains (iv) Viability of Fair Price Shop (FPS) (v) Accountability and monitoring (vi) Allocation of foodgrain on per unit basis (vii) Vigilance Committee (viii) Complaint Mechanism (ix) Allotment of FPS (x) Awareness of beneficiaries (xi) Vigilance and Enforcement (xii) Functioning of FPS (xiii) Supply of Fortified atta (xiv) Elimination of Bogus and Fake ration cards (xv) Electronic Weighment (xvi) Issuance of ration cards (xvii) Implementation of Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 08.05.2002 and 02.05.2003 (xviii) Allocation of PDS foodgrain from Centre to States/UTs on the basis of projected population, 2012 (xix) Joint Sampling (xx) Abolition of APL category and (xxi) Special measures for poorest districts in the Country. Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 07.01.2013 has directed the Central and State/UT Governments to file their response on the report of CVC. Central Government has filed affidavits including last affidavit dated 28.02.2013 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court inter-alia submitting a roadmap for implementation of administrative reforms in the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in response to the recommendations of the CVC. States/UTs are to submit their response in the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) and (d): Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding conferences wherein State/UT Governments are requested for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, improving the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at FPSs, greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc.

A Nine Point Action Plan for curbing the leakages/diversion of foodgrains under TPDS was evolved in July, 2006 in consultation with the State/UT Governments. Point-wise and State/UT-wise details of the action taken under the Nine Point Action Plan as reported upto 31.12.2012 are at Annex – I and II respectively.