

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:269
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009
STRENGTHENING OF PDS
Alagiri Shri S. ;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

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

- (a) whether the Wadhwa Committee has made certain recommendations on the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether suggestions have also been received from some State Governments in this regard; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this behalf so as to strengthen the PDS?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(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.269 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2009 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (d) Central Vigilance Committee appointed by Hon'ble Supreme Court to study functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has submitted its reports to the Court for Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. The Committee is yet to submit reports on TPDS in other States/UTs. A gist of common recommendations contained in the reports submitted is enclosed at Annex-I.

Reports of the Committee have been sent to concerned State & UT Governments to examine and take necessary action thereon. So far comments have been received only from the Governments of NCT, Delhi and Jharkhand.

As per the order of Supreme Court dated 10.01.2008, the CVC has been asked to study TPDS all over the country and the court would consider suggestions contained in these reports thereafter. However, Government has directed State/UT Governments to streamline functioning of TPDS by improving monitoring and vigilance, using information technology tools and creating awareness among public about TPDS operations.

ANNEX

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.269 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 8.12.2009 IN THE LOK SABHA

CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS ON TPDS IN STATES (DELHI, JHARKHAND, KARNATAKA, ORISSA & UTTARANCHAL) – COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For identification of BPL families – income criteria be revisited and use of consumption criteria be explored.
2. APL category should be abolished, alternatively only those APL households should be covered under TPDS whose annual income is upto Rs. one lakh.
3. Computerization of TPDS operations be taken up.
4. Independent agency to monitor working of TPDS – Ombudsman/Regulator be set up.
5. Global Positioning Systems be installed on vehicles transporting TPDS foodgrains.
6. Re-survey/reidentification of BPL and AAY families be done to check exclusion and inclusion errors.
7. Public awareness campaign about TPDS be carried out for beneficiaries.
8. Fair Price Shop licences be issued to kirana shop owners.
9. 24 hrs. help line for beneficiaries to lodge complaints about TPDS be established.
10. Strengthening of enforcement and anti-hoarding machinery be done to ensure zero tolerance of malpractices.
11. Supply of TPDS foodgrains in small packages of 5&10 kgs be done in HDPE bags instead of jute bags.
12. Constitution/re-constitution and strengthening of vigilance committees at FPS and district levels.
13. For increasing viability of fair price shops, minimum 300 & 500 ration cards should be attached to every fair price shop in rural and urban areas.

14. Door-step delivery of foodgrains should be done to fair price shops without any charge.
15. Political influence in operation of TPDS should be done away with.