

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:313  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013  
MONITORING OF PDS .  
Lal Shri Kirodi

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

- (a) whether the Government has appointed Area Officers for monitoring of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the nature of the duties performed by the said officers;
- (c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the Area Officers Scheme during the last two years;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the extent to which the said scheme has been successful in improving the functioning of the PDS?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented under joint responsibility of Central Government and State/UT Governments. Apart from TPDS, some Central/centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry are also implemented by State/UT Governments.

For better feedback on TPDS and other schemes, an arrangement of field visits by officers of the Department was introduced in the year 2000. These officers are termed as Area Officers and specific States and UTs are assigned to them for field visits under Area Officer Scheme. However, presently, the scheme has been kept in abeyance.