

**Effectiveness of PDS Network**

980. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PDS network in India has been successful in achieving its objectives;

(b) what is its outreach in rural as well as urban areas, in terms of percentage;

(c) whether any study has been conducted for reviewing it;

(d) if so, the main findings thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN):

(a) With a vast network of over 4.5 lakh Fair Price Shops for distribution of essential commodities, viz rice, wheat, sugar, edible oil and kerosene to about 16 crore families in the country, specially the families living below poverty line, the Public Distribution System (PDS) has played a meaningful role in making these commodities available at affordable prices at household level.

PDS is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. Central Government makes available the essential commodities to States and UTs., while the operational responsibility of implementing the PDS including distribution to the consumers in both rural and urban areas is of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(b) As per reports received from various State Governments/U.Ts., out of total number of 4,55,038 Fair Price Shops, about 3,64,367 (80%) are in rural areas and 90,671 (20%) in urban areas.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Import of Sugar**

981. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:—

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.