

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREE NIVASA PRASAD): (a) The Super Bazar, Delhi has sustained losses during the last three years. The year wise position of losses sustained are as under:

Year	Rs. in lakhs
1996-97 (Audited)	67.65
1997-98 (Audited)	321.33
1998-99 (Tentative)	706.80

(b) to (d) The Super Bazar, Delhi has informed that based on reference from the Ministry investigations in respect of few allegations are in progress. Further action in the matter will be taken after the receipt of the report on investigation.

Revamping of PDS

†1695. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in Dainik Observer of 24th November, 1999 under the caption, "Total revamp of PDS on cards";

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision to bring comprehensive improvements in the present Public Distribution System;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any proposal is being considered with regard to the new or improved system; if so, the broad outlines thereof?

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[17 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government has been receiving inputs that the current Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) suffers from several inadequacies a few of which are as under:

- (i) The quantity of foodgrains supplied is insufficient;
- (ii) The quality of foodgrains is also sometimes poor;
- (iii) Although the objective of TPDS was to focus on poor, the quantities of foodgrains supplies to the population below poverty line is the same as the population above poverty line;
- (iv) A better package in favour of poor should be evolved by the Government under T.P.D.S. to make it socially more relevant and economically more attractive;
- (v) The subsidy burden under the T.P.D.S. should be reduced by evolving a more positive price policy in favour of poor with more supplies while ensuring adequate supplies to non-poor and ensuring at the same time that the diversion of commodities under the T.P.D.S. is minimized;
- (vi) Timely supplies need to be ensured by better organisation of the delivery system;
- (vii) Delivery system and issue of ration cards should be transparent and subjected to social audit; and
- (viii) Menace of the bogus ration cards should be eliminated.

Suggested improvement involve the decisions by the Union Government and the State Governments. Review and consequent improvement in the T.P.D.S. is a continuous process and involves the representatives of civil society, academics and experts. Government has decided to evolve a consensus on the issue by associating all concerned in the foreseeable future, including the State Government.