

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government has assumed responsibility of supplying to States/ Union Territories certain key essential commodities, such as, wheat, rice, sugar, imported edible oils and kerosene apart from soft coke and controlled cloth for distribution to the consumers under the Public Distribution system. Once these commodities are received by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations it is their responsibility to sub-allocate them to different districts for distribution through fair price shops. It is, therefore, for the State Governments to look into complaints for taking corrective action.

Supply of Commodities in Fair Price Shops

672. **SHRI ERA SAMBASIVAM:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation are supplying commodities to the owners of Fair Price Shops in Delhi which are often found to be unfit for human consumption;

(b) whether Government propose to revert to the old system whereby the Fair Price Shop owners could draw their quota from F.C.I. godowns after verifying the quality of the foodgrains;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) No, Sir. No such complaints have been received by Delhi Administration.

365 RS—6.

(b) to (d) The system of delivery of food articles at the doorsteps of the Fair Price Shops by the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation is working quite satisfactorily and in fact this has improved and streamlined the functioning of Public Distribution System in Delhi. The Delhi Administration, therefore, does not envisage any change in the present system.

Setting up of a High-powered Committee to examine the Anomalies in the Public Distribution System

673. **SHRI RAMANAND YADAV :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government have recently set up a high powered Committee to examine the present anomalies in the public distribution system in the country;

(b) if so, what are the key issues on which the Committee will probe and suggest corrective measures; and

(c) what are the names of the members of the Committee and what is the scheduled time for submission of report by the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) to (c) The Government have recently set up a Study Group on Public Distribution System for areas other than metropolitan cities with the following terms of references :

(i) To study the present status of the functioning of the Public Distribution System in areas other than metropolitan cities with Special reference to rural, far-flung and hilly areas.