Functioning of PDS

3471. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recommendations/ suggestions have been received to discontinue the present Public Distribution System (PDS) for better implementation of the proposed Food Security Law;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether Government has worked out any alternate mode of distribution to check the shortcomings noticed in the present PDS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The proposed National Food Security law envisages entitling every Below Poverty Line (BPL) family to a certain quantity of foodgrains per month at subsidized prices. The proposed law will also be used to bring about broader systemic reforms in the Public Distribution System.

There is no proposal to replace the current system of distribution of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at FPSs, ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels.

Prevention of speculation-led food inflation

3472. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the report of the UN special rapporteur appointed directly by the UN Human Rights Council on the right to food which says "A significant portion of the increases in price and volatility of essential food commodities can only be explained by the emergence of a speculative bubble"; and