

However, in an independent study conducted by a group of research scholars and student volunteers, including Jean Dreze, Reetika Khera and others, it has been stated that there has been an impressive revival of Public Distribution System across the country during the recent years. The group have based their findings on a study made in 106 randomly-selected villages, spread over two districts each in 9 States, covering a total of 1227 BPL/Antyodaya Households. Based on the survey made, the researchers have brought out that there have been major initiatives in the recent past to improve PDS and these efforts are showing results. It has been pointed out the days when up to half of the PDS grain was diverted to the open market are gone. It has also been indicated in the report that three-quarters of the respondents reported getting their full quota in the nine survey States and that there were hardly any instances of overcharging.

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 Fair Price Shops (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 including the Supply Chain Management and automation at the FPS level.

Further, instructions and advisories are issued from time to time for reforms in PDS. In the Conference of State Food Secretaries & other officials on Best Practices and Reforms in TPDS held in July 2010 measures being taken by States/UTs for streamlining the TPDS were shared amongst the participants. These, *inter-alia*, related to proper identification of beneficiaries, timely distribution of foodgrains, door step delivery of foodgrains, enhancing viability of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), enhancing storage capacities, use of technology based initiatives in TPDS, increasing public awareness, monitoring distribution of PDS commodities through social audit, etc. Regional Conference were also held in February, 2011 with State/UT Food Ministers and Food Secretaries to review the implementation of TPDS. Further, a two day Conference on TPDS and Storage with Food & Agriculture Ministers and Secretaries of States/UTs was held on 8th & 9th February 2012 at New Delhi. The issues discussed in the Conference included stepping up of procurement activities, expeditious action to be taken for computerization of PDS and creation of storage capacity as well as time bound completion of existing projects.

#### **Financial condition of companies**

†3309. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that due to weak financial condition of Government and private companies of the country their loan returning capacity has been eroded during the last three years;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the companies who have expressed their helplessness to repay the loans during 2009, 2010, 2011 and by March 2012 year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Furnishing of misleading information by MNAFs**

3310. SHRI D. RAJA : Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has accused certain audit firms associated with Multinational Network Accounting Firms (MNAFs) of claiming to the public that they are MNAFs in India while telling ICAI/regulators that they are purely Indian firms having no relations with foreign entities;

(b) whether around 27 per cent of audit firms furnished incomplete information and masked/blackened/not provided important information sought by ICAI; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to address the violations of norms of operation and breach of code ethics by MNAFs as mentioned in the ICAI report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) According to the information furnished by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) a High Power Committee (HPC) appointed by them for examining the operation of Multinational Network Accounting Firms (MNAFs) in India, has observed, that certain Indian CA firms and private limited companies associated with them pose as if, they are actually MNAFs in India whereas to the ICAI/regulators, report themselves purely as Indian CA firms having no relationship with foreign entities.

(b) Yes, Sir, the HPC report contains an observation to that effect.

(c) The Ministry has not received any recommendation from ICAI for taking action against any firm.

**Conducting of AGM by companies**

3311. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA : Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the listed companies have been conducting their Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and also sending annual reports regularly to their share holders;