

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 12.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
REVAMPING OF PDS

65

Sardar Balwinder Singh Bhunder

Will the Minister of COALCOALCOALCOALCOALCONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :-

to the answer to Unstarred Question 3393 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27 August, 2010 and state:

- (a) whether Government has since taken a decision to revamp the public distribution system in the country in the light of the recommendations made by the National Advisory Council (NAC), recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof vis-à-vis the recommendations of the Council; and
- (c) if no action has so far been taken in the matter, by when the same is likely to be taken?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a),(b) & (c):A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 65 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 12.11.2010 IN THE RAJYA SABHA.

(a),(b)&(c):The National Advisory Council (NAC) in its meeting held on 23rd October 2010, has made certain recommendations on the coverage and entitlement under the proposed National Food Security Bill. According to the recommendations of NAC, an essential aspect of the PDS reform should be to plug leakages and enhance accountability. The NAC is examining proposals for PDS reforms including

- (i) decentralised procurement and storage;
- (ii) deprivatization of PDS outlets;
- (iii) doorstep delivery of grain to PDS outlets;
- (iv) revision of PDS commissions;
- (v) Application of ICT including end-to-end computerization of the PDS;
- (vi) full transparency of records (including pro-active disclosure, transaction based MIS, right of immediate inspection, and mandatory social audits)
- (vii) use of Smart cards and biometrics subject to successful pilots. The recommendations of the NAC and other stakeholders will be examined by the Government while finalizing the National Food Security Bill.