

14. During the course of his statement in Parliament on 22 November 2002, the Union Agriculture Minister informed that he had suggested to the states to open bank accounts directly in the name of the affected people and deposit relief doles directly instead of the traditional staged distribution in kind and that few Chief Ministers have done either. What is the position in your state? Do you agree with the suggestion? If not, please indicate the reasons. If yes, state the manner in which the suggestion has been or expected to be adopted and the modalities thereof.	Not applicable.
15. Have independent studies of evaluation been made of PDS? If yes, please give a summary of their salient findings and action taken by the State Government on them. If not, please furnish a plan of action in this regard.	This department has not appointed any independent agency for studies of evaluate of PDS . However time to time the report on tribals of this UT in consultation with the tribal councils is being submitted to the Administration as and when required.
16. Experience shows that at some places while the food-grains are available, the needy tribals do not have purchasing power to buy food-grains even at concessional rates. This calls for structural changes in the programmes of tribal development for providing employment to them leading to creation of permanent assets like digging of water-harvesting structures, small check-dams, tree-plantation, construction of small lift irrigation schemes and bore-walls. These schemes should improve agricultural productivity. Has the State Government accelerated the tempo of developmental activities in drought-prone areas?	There is no drought –prone area in this UT. Inspite of that the poverty alleviation schemes like SGSY, SGRY, PMRY are being implemented in the tribal area for providing employment to the tribals leading to creation of permanent assets so that the economic condition of the tribals improves.
17. The forest department should ensure availability of minor forest produce (MFP) so that the tribals can subsist on forest items like roots, minor millets, mahuwa, honey etc. during lean periods. They should also be allowed to sell the surplus MFP to the cooperative agencies with a view to increase their purchasing power. Has the state forest department allowed the STs to forage forest areas at time of failure of rains for survival? If so, please furnish details.	There is no restriction on collection of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) by the tribals for their domestic use. However the tribals do not collect any surplus MFP for sale.