

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
CASH TO BPL FAMILIES .

1131

SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA

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

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(a) whether it is a fact that keeping in view the shortcomings of Public Distribution System, the Bihar Government has sent a new proposal as an alternative model before the Central Government according to which it has been suggested to offer cash to BPL families instead of foodgrains and other items; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far on the said proposal and by when a final decision would be taken?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (b): Proposals have been received from some States for direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in lieu of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Based on those proposals, a draft scheme has been prepared to test the feasibility of this alternative mode of transfer of food subsidy, which is under consideration of the Government. The Government of Bihar has also suggested for direct transfer of food subsidy in cash on pilot basis in some districts under TPDS. Clarifications have been sought from Government of Bihar in the matter. Further action will be taken after receipt of their response.