

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 981
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND November, 2016

TRANSFER OF FOOD SUBSIDY

981. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prepared a time-bound plan to directly transfer food subsidy to beneficiaries instead of foodgrains distribution and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has carried out a survey to assess the choice of consumers regarding cash transfer and foodgrains distribution, if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the findings of the survey are likely to be implemented?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a): As per the 'Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015', which was notified on 21-08-2015 under the National Food Security Act, 2013, scheme of providing food subsidy in cash into the bank account of entitled households to enable them to purchase foodgrains from open market, can be taken up in the identified areas for which there is a written consent of the State Govt./UT Administration. With the consent of UTs, the scheme has been implemented in Chandigarh and Puducherry w.e.f 01.09.2015 and it has been partially implemented in Dadra & Nagar Haveli from 01.03.2016.

(b) & (c) : In food, DBT is being implemented in two ways i) Cash Transfer of food subsidy into bank account of beneficiaries ii) DBT in-kind means Automation of Fair Price Shops. As per the DBT rule, States/UTs have to ensure following prerequisite Conditions for implementing direct cash transfers for foodgrains:

- Complete digitization of Ration Cards/beneficiaries,
- Seeded with Aadhaar numbers and Bank Account details,
- Availability of banking facilities, and
- Adequate availability of foodgrains in the open market.

States/UTs have to complete the assessment of pre-requisite conditions. State can demand for the implementation of cash transfer scheme in the identified district/small area after fulfilment of above conditions.