

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2145
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2018

REVISION OF SUBSIDY IN PDS

2145. SHRI V. ELUMALAI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the subsidy rate at which foodgrains are supplied through ration shops has not been revised since the food law was rolled out in July, 2013;
- (b) whether it is also true that the States which are slow in implementing PDS reforms should complete in a time-bound manner; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

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

(a): The difference between the Economic Cost of foodgrains and the subsidized prices under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is borne by the Central Government as food subsidy. With the increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) of foodgrains and corresponding increase in the cost of procurement incidentals, the economic cost of foodgrains gets increased, resulting in increase in per unit food subsidy also.

(b) & (c): As PDS reform measures, this Department is implementing a scheme on 'End-to-End Computerization of TPDS Operations'. Component-I of the scheme comprises digitization of ration cards/beneficiary database, online allocation, computerization of supply chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanisms. Under the scheme, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs. While transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs, online allocation has been implemented in 30 States/UTs and supply chain management computerized in 21 States/UTs. Component-II of scheme comprises automation of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), which involves installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at FPSs for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic recording of sale transactions. As per information received from States/UTs, out of total 5.29 lakh FPSs across the country, more than 3.33 lakh FPSs have been automated so far. Further, to identify and weed out duplicate/ineligible beneficiaries and to enable rightful targeting of food subsidies, all States/UTs have been requested to seed Aadhaar numbers in ration card data base. At present, the Aadhaar seeding is 84.36% at national level. Since, some of the States/UTs could not complete all activities under the scheme within the time lines of plan period, the validity of the scheme has been extended upto 31.03.2019 without any escalation of the project cost.