

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1325
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JULY, 2015

DIRECT CASH TRANSFER

1325. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to move to a Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme as an alternative to the highly subsidized price policy for Public Distribution System (PDS), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce the said scheme in the Union Territories on pilot basis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be extended to all the States indicating the per capita food subsidy being provided presently, State-wise?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (c): There are various methods to check leakages and diversion of foodgrains. Direct Transfer of Cash subsidy is one of such options, which has also been discussed in various forums. Its implementation however depends upon readiness of States / Union Territories in terms of digitization and de-duplication of beneficiaries database, seeded with available Aadhaar and bank accounts numbers, and it can be taken up on specific request from States/UTs. For a pilot scheme, interest has been shown by UT of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Puducherry and they are making necessary preparations. Further, the decision to extend the scheme to other States will only be taken on willingness and preparedness of the States and on receipt of the feedback from the UTs after piloting of the scheme.