

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 199
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2015

DIRECT FOOD SUBSIDY

199. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRI G. HARI:

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 proposes to introduce direct transfer of food subsidy to the consumers and wind up the current Public Distribution System (PDS) to restrict the fake beneficiaries and limit the outgo of subsidy;
- (b) if so, the details of the plan prepared by the Union Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Union Government estimate indicate that the subsidy bill could fall by 20 per cent a year if the direct benefit transfer scheme is fully implemented; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the direct benefit transfer scheme fully?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d): No, Madam. Government is at present not considering to change the distribution system of ration being given under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

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 bank accounts numbers, and it can be taken up on specific request from States/UTs. Interest has been shown by UT of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Puducherry and they are making necessary preparations. The implications can be assessed only after implementation.