

approval of the Scheme by the Planning Commission. The request of the Maharashtra Government for additional financial assistance of Rs. 3.0 crores for a construction of the office building for the district fora could not be acceded to as the Central Government has no Scheme, as of now, to extend further financial support to the States and UTs.

Central Assistance for Strengthening PDS in States

1699. SHRI A. VIJAYA. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to strengthen the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what assistance has been given by the Central Government to States in this regard;

(d) whether the Central Government would give any assistance to State Governments to expand PDS; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to strengthen Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in all the areas including rural areas, the State Governments/UTs have been advised to constitute Vigilance Committees at various levels draw up inspection schedules right from Collector/District Magistrate to the Inspector of Supplies and take measures to introduce greater transparency in the working of the system. A Model Citizens' Charter for TPDS has also been prepared and circulated to the States/UTs for adoption. Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard, food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government have sought more substantial involvement of Gram Panchayats in the supervision and monitoring of PDS specially at the Fair Price Shop (FPS) level as a measure of social audit. Guidelines have been

recently issued for greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the functioning of the TPDS. Central Government also provides financial assistance to the States/Union Territories for constructions of godowns of upto 2000 Metric Tonnes capacity to ensure smooth flow of PDS commodities especially in rural, remote and hilly areas. Financial assistance is also provided for purchase of vans/trucks especially in such areas for use as mobile fair price shops and also as carrier of foodgrains to the FPS for effective and efficient door delivery.

(c) The details of assistance given to the States under the Schemes for construction of godowns and purchase of vans may be seen in statement-I and statement-II. (See below)

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A provision of Rs. 62.50 crores has been made for giving assistance to States/UTs under the scheme for construction of godowns and Rs. 50 crores have been allocated for the scheme for purchase of vans, in the Ninth Plan (1997—2002). The financial assistance is sanctioned on the basis of proposals/requests received from the States/UTs.

Statement-I

Details of amount, capacity and number of godowns sanctioned to State Governments/UTs under centrally sponsored scheme for construction of godowns till 30-11-1999

Sl. No.	State	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Capacity in MT	No. of godowns
1.	Andhra Pradesh	137.40	5400	18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	27.70	800	05
3.	Assam	542.58	39300	20
4.	Bihar	106.40	9000	09
5.	Goa	00.00	0000	00
6.	Gujarat	395.72	16000	29
7.	Haryana	165.29	12170	07
8.	Himachal Pradesh	102.76	3500	12
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	555.54	14200	53

Sl. No.	State	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Capacity in MT	No. of godowns
10.	Karnataka	132.00	8200	31
11.	Kerala	71.50	3000	03
12.	Madhya Pradesh	522.88	32000	32
13.	Maharashtra	206.16	10442	21
14.	Manipur	194.80	5000	25
15.	Meghalaya	46.00	2400	03
16.	Mizoram	296.25	13200	39
17.	Nagaland	92.82	2050	37
18.	Orissa	208.00	13000	52
19.	Punjab	00.00	00000	00
20.	Rajasthan	808.57	59250	34
21.	Sikkim	64.50	2600	07
22.	Tamil Nadu	50.00	2480	18
23.	Tripura	113.02	3250	11
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1108.03	42750	74
25.	West Bengal	96.46	6000	12
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	46.00	1000	02
27.	Chandigarh	00.00	0000	00
28.	D&N Haveli	00.00	0000	00
29.	Daman & Diu	00.00	0000	00
30.	Delhi	00.00	0000	00
31.	Lakshadweep	7.50	500	01
32.	Pondicherry	0.00	000	00
Total		6097.88	307492	555

Statement-II

Details of amount and number of vehicles sanctioned to State Governments/UTs under centrally sponsored scheme for purchase of Vans/Trucks Till 30-11-1999

Sl. No.	State	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	No. of vehicles
1.	Andhra Pradesh	325.00	71
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	158.64	34

Sl. No.	State	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	No. of vehicles
3.	Assam	222.72	44
4.	Bihar	276.73	86
5.	Goa	000	00
6.	Gujarat	000	00
7.	Haryana	65.00	20
8.	Himachal Pradesh	445.00	69
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	492.17	83
10.	Karnataka	113.00	38
11.	Kerala	411.06	66
12.	Madhya Pradesh	617.00	164
13.	Maharashtra	1239.91	257
14.	Manipur	156.50	46
15.	Meghalaya	41.00	13
16.	Mizoram	132.76	32
17.	Nagaland	50.00	17
18.	Orissa	590.50	135
19.	Punjab	10.00	04
20.	Rajasthan	394.50	122
21.	Sikkim	25.73	08
22.	Tamil Nadu	136.74	36
23.	Tripura	188.00	26
24.	Uttar Pradesh	722.40	132
25.	West Bengal	100.00	25
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	20.00	05
27.	Chandigarh	5.00	02
28.	D&N Haveli	000	00
29.	Daman & Diu	000	00
30.	Delhi	000	00
31.	Lakshadweep	4.00	01
32.	Pondicherry	000	00
Total		6350.58	1536