

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Fertilizer subsidy is transferred to the farmers in the form of subsidized MRPs which are much lower than the delivered cost of subsidized fertilizers at farm-gate level. Currently, all farmers are getting subsidized fertilizers notified under the subsidy regime at subsidized MRPs.

Non-payment of outstanding amount to sugarcane farmers

†3702. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the outstanding balance to farmers of Uttar Pradesh on sugar mills;

(b) whether Government is taking any concrete measures to have the payment of sugarcane dues made to farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the payments would be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the fortnightly report for the fortnight ending 15.07.2009, received from the Cane Commissioner, Government of Uttar Pradesh, the outstanding cane price arrears payable by the sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh to the sugar cane farmers for the current sugar season 2008-09 was Rs. 18.19 crore which is just about 0.29 percent of the total cane price payable for the season. Besides, a sum of Rs.11.04 crore is outstanding as arrears for the last sugar season 2007-08 and a total sum of Rs.80.53 crore pertaining to the sugar seasons prior to 2007-08.

(b) and (c) The position of cane price arrears is monitored on fortnightly basis. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has issued recovery certificates to 64 sugar mills for the sugar season 2006-07 and 21 sugar mills in private sector for the sugar season 2007-08. For the current sugar season 2008-09, the process of payment is on. As such, it is not possible to pinpoint the time by which such outstanding payments would be made.

Conditions for BPL status

†3703. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons satisfying the 13 conditions prescribed by Government for giving BPL status to a family are getting the facilities meant for BPL families;

(b) whether Government is considering to amend the stipulated conditions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) For identification of rural Below

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Poverty Line (BPL) households to be assisted under its programmes, Ministry of Rural Development issued guidelines for BPL census 2002 based on 13 socio-economic parameters. For formulation guidelines for next BPL census in rural areas, Ministry of Rural Development has constituted an Expert Group in August, 2008. The new methodology is yet to be finalised by that Ministry. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has not issued any such guidelines.

The Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State Level. For allocation of foodgrains to States and Union Territory (UT) Governments under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000. This number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

Responsibility for identification of eligible BPL families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through Fair Price Shops is of the States/UT Governments.

For issuing ration cards under TPDS, The States/UT Governments have to identify the BPL families as per the estimates accepted by the Central Government (6.52 crore) as provided under the Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001.

Monitoring agency to look after the functioning of PDS

3704. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wadhwa Committee has recommended monitoring agencies to look after the functioning of PDS since the provisions of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 are being violated by some State civil supply departments, as informed by this Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Central Vigilance Committee (CVC) set up by Hon'ble Supreme Court in the context of Writ Petition No. 196/2001 to study functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), submitted its report on TPDS in Delhi to Supreme Court in August, 2007 containing certain recommendations. This report of CVC was sent to Government of Delhi on 28-09-07 for comments. Delhi Government has informed, in their reply dated 02-05-09, about some of its decisions taken on the CVC report as given in the Statement (See below).