

Computerisation of ration cards

2321. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has undertaken the process of computerisation of ration cards;
- (b) if so, the details of the process;
- (c) the details of the State Governments which have done the computerisation in this area;
- (d) whether information relating to ration cards issued, is available on Central and States' websites; and
- (e) if so, which States have made the same available?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) In order to make delivery of services efficient under TPDS and to assess replicability of use of smart cards, Government has approved in December, 2008 implementation of a pilot scheme on smart cards based TPDS in Chandigarh and Haryana. Under it, eligible BPL families would be issued smart cards in place of existing ration cards. They will have bio-metric features of the family members, based on which verification of genuineness of the BPL families will take place and thereafter only the essential commodities would be issued to them from the fair price shops. For commencing implementation of this scheme, work is in progress by the implementing agencies *i.e.* Government of Haryana, Chandigarh UT Administration and National Informatics Centre.

In addition as per available information, 9 State/UT Governments namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have reported to have initiated computerization of TPDS operations from their own resources.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Non-distribution of foodgrains to BPL families

†2322. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the foodgrains to be distributed through Public Distribution System to the persons living below poverty line are yet to be distributed;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the foodgrains are being sold illegally in the black market; and
- (c) whether Government is considering to improve Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are made to all the States/UTs as per the applicable norms. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government has already made allocations of foodgrains under TPDS for all the three categories, *i.e.* Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families for the Year 2009-10.

The responsibility for identification of BPL and AAY families as per Planning Commission estimates and guidelines of Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, issuance of ration cards to them, lifting of allocated foodgrains, their proper distribution to the eligible families within the State/UT through Fair Price Shops and supervision over it is of the State/UT Governments/Therefore, complaints about malpractices in TPDS received from time to time are sent to concerned State/UT Governments for inquiry and appropriate action under the law.

Government has taken a series of measures and urged State/UT Governments to streamline TPDS by:—

- (i) continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- (ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;
- (iii) improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels;
- (iv) introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart card based delivery of essential commodities; and
- (v) getting functioning of TPDS periodically evaluated.

Implementation of National Food Security Act

2323. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has enumerated BPL families so as to implement the National Food Security Act;
- (b) if so, the details of BPL families in the country, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of agencies that are proposed to be given the responsibility to implement the proposed law?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act. Under the proposed law, every Below Poverty Line (BPL) family is to be entitled to receive 25 kg of foodgrains per month. Details of eligible BPL families to be covered, methodology for their identification, issue of targeted identification cards to them, etc. are yet to be worked out.

Under the proposed law, responsibility for implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System will be of both Central and State/UT Governments.