

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for delay in this project and by when it is likely to start; and

(e) by when the scheme is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) There was no proposal before the Government to end the Public Distribution System by providing case for food. However, State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi submitted proposals to approve a scheme on pilot basis in five districts – Lakhimpur Kheri and Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh, Panchkula and Jhajjar in Haryana and Central district in Delhi for direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to BPL families instead of distribution of foodgrains to them under TPDS. Based on those proposals, a draft scheme has been prepared to test the feasibility of this alternative mode of transfer of food subsidy to BPL/AAY beneficiaries under the TPDS. The draft scheme is under examination.

Use of mobil oil to enhance size and shining of pulses

†181. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobil oil and other toxicants are being used by black marketers to enhance the size and shining of pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has identified such black marketers and punished them; and

(d) 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 (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Foodgrain quota for Kerala

182. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foodgrain quota for Kerala was cut for the last few months thereby jeopardizing the statutory rationing system in the State;

(b) if so, the quota demanded by the State Government, actually allocated the Central Government and off take by the State Government during the year 2008 and 2009, month-wise so far;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.