notice/FIRs lodged/suspension/cancellation of FPS licences and arrest/prosecution/conviction of 17237 persons.

(e) and (f) State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Govt, of NCT of Delhi submitted proposals for direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families on pilot basis in five districts, namely, Lakhimpur Kheri and Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh, Panchkula and Jhajjar in Haryana and Central District in Delhi, 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 families under TPDS. It has been referred to Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) for the approval of Committee on Non-Plan Expenditure.

Implementation of food security system

†2141. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a)   whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken to start the first phase of food security system in one fourth part of the country;

(b)   if so, the facts in this regard;

(c)   the places seleted for the first phase along with the basis fixed for this selection; and

(d)   by when this system would be implemented throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Government is committed to enact a National Food Security Act which, inter-alia, envisages-entitling every below poverty line family in the country to a certain quantity of foodgrains every month at subsidized prices. At present, an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted for the purpose is considering issues concerning the proposed law. Based on directions of EGoM, a draft Bill will be prepared and placed on the website of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi