

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Several initiatives have been taken for modernisation of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Government of India has taken up computerisation of TPDS to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. In the first phase, the scheme on computerisation of TPDS operations had been approved to be implemented on pilot basis in three districts each of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Delhi. A pilot scheme on Smart Card based delivery of essential commodities had been initiated in Chandigarh (UT) and Haryana. Under the scheme, existing ration cards are to be replaced by Smart Cards. Further, States/UTs have been informed that the Aadhaar platform can be used to improve service delivery of schemes being implemented by them and that a roadmap for adoption and use of Aadhaar should be drawn up and implemented. States/UTs have also been requested to make relevant efforts to digitize their ration card databases and introduce Aadhaar in PDS. Other Information and Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives include the use of GPS technology for tracking TPDS vehicles, providing SMS alerts, CCTV monitoring of Fair Price Shop (FPS), grievance redressal through call centres, etc.

TPDS modernisation programme is being taken up as a collaborative effort of Government as well as private agencies and individuals. Computerisation of TPDS is being undertaken by Central and State Governments with the assistance of the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and other Government agencies. Wherever required, private agencies and individuals are also involved in the efforts towards modernisation of TPDS.

Under the TPDS, Government allocates wheat, rice, coarse grains, sugar and kerosene oil to State/UT Governments for distribution to ration card holders. At present, there is no proposal to allocate additional items under TPDS. However, States/UTs have been advised to allow FPS licensees to enlarge the basket of commodities by allowing sale of non-PDS items of daily use as per local requirements. Non-PDS items being sold by some State/UT Governments include pulses, edible oils, iodised salt, spices, etc.

Outstanding dues of decentralised procurement

†*366. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States involved in decentralised procurement, including Uttar Pradesh, have more than Rs. 11,000 crore outstanding dues against the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for rabi season procurements; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in payments and by when FCI would clear these dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The States undertaking de-centralized procurement (DCP) arrange their own funds for procurement. The DCP States themselves procure, store and distribute foodgrains for Targeted Public Distribution System and Other Welfare Schemes. The difference between the economic cost of foodgrains and the issue prices of foodgrains is reimbursed to the States as subsidy by Government of India.

However, Uttar Pradesh is not a DCP State. The procurement in Non-DCP States including Uttar Pradesh is made both by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as well as State Governments and their agencies. The State Governments and their agencies deliver foodgrains stocks procured to FCI and payment is made by FCI after taking over foodgrains.

The delay in payment by FCI to some States recently was due to temporary cash flow problem on account of delay in release of advance subsidy for the quarter July-September, 2011 which was restricted to Rs. 4000 crore against approved amount of Rs. 1,1635.84 crore. The matter was taken up with Ministry of Finance and after obtaining their clearance, balance amount of Rs. 7635.84 crore was released to FCI on 21.7.2011. After receipt of this amount, the temporary cash flow problem in FCI has been resolved.

As on 18.08.2011, the outstanding payments to the State Governments/agencies from FCI against take-over of foodgrains are as follows:—

Uttar Pradesh	:	Rs. 485.00 crore
Punjab	:	Rs. 367.28 crore
Madhya Pradesh	:	Rs. 193.78 crore

However, the balance amounts are being released to the State Governments/agencies.

Solar lights in Jammu and Kashmir

*367. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in the hinterland of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh regions which are covered under solar lights as per the scheme launched by the Ministry; and

(b) whether the Ministry had conducted any survey to assess the requirement in the backward areas of those regions where people face hardships in the absence of power supply for lighting purposes?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) The entire State of Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh region are covered under the Ministry's