

**Levy sugar for PDS**

490. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is actively considering to take steps to remove obligations from sugar mills to supply levy sugar for PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment regarding the adverse effect of this on PDS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No decision to remove levy obligation on sugar mills has been taken by the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Smart card for beneficiaries**

491. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to give smart cards for the welfare of beneficiaries in some schemes especially under APL and BPL families;

(b) if so, the details worked out, so far;

(c) the parameters adopted therefor; and

(d) the funds allocated and spent/to be spent for such smart cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) To improve the quality of delivery of services under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and to assess replicability of new technologies, a pilot scheme on smart card based delivery of TPDS commodities was approved for Chandigarh UT and State of Haryana in December, 2008. Under this scheme, the existing ration cards are to be replaced by smart cards. These smart cards will contain bio-metric features of adult members of the ration card holder families.

Out of the expenditure of Rs. 142.28 crore envisaged under the pilot scheme, a total of Rs. 28.03 crore has been released, which includes Rs. 25.00 crore to State of Haryana, Rs. 1.10 crore to Chandigarh UT and Rs. 1.93 crore to National Informatics Centre (NIC).