

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Computerisation of PDS**

*202. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to spend Rs.4,000 crore for end to end computerisation of Public Distribution System (PDS) to ensure that the highly subsidised grains reach the intended beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also considering a proposal to create a special purpose vehicle for movement of foodgrains in collaboration with the Railways; 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) and (b) Department of Food and Public Distribution has prepared a draft scheme on end-to-end computerization of TPDS operations in all States/UTs. Under the scheme, necessary infrastructure and financial support will be provided to States/UTs. The total proposed outlay of the scheme is estimated at Rs.4273.47 crore under the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) on cost-sharing basis with States/UTs.

The scheme provides for, inter-alia, Computerisation of Supply-Chain, Digitization of Ration Card database, SMS/E-mail alerts on dispatch and delivery of foodgrains, setting up of Transparency Portal, Grievance redressal mechanism, FPS Automation, etc.

(c) and (d) Department of Food and Public Distribution is preparing a National Foodgrain Movement Plan for movement of foodgrains in consultation with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Ministry of Railways. However, the details are yet to be finalized.

Power supply to areas near NTPC projects

†*203. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been chalked out to supply power to the areas located in the vicinity of NTPC projects, run by the Central Government, in the country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.