

Expenditure on subsidies

1167. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Eleventh Plan, expenditure on subsidies increased by 205 per cent from Rs. 70926 crore in 2007-08 to Rs. 216297 crore in 2011-12;

(b) whether Government plans to reduce the expenditure on subsidies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) The expenditure on subsidies during the Eleventh Plan increased by 207% from Rs. 70926 crore in 2007-08 to Rs. 217941 crore in 2011-12 (Actual).

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) It is planned to reduce the expenditure on subsidies from 2.6% of GDP in 2011-12 to 1.5% of GDP by the terminal year of the Twelfth Plan through various reforms. The objective is not to eliminate subsidies. There is a role for targeted subsidies that advance the cause of inclusiveness but such subsidies should be contained within a pre-determined level of affordability. It should be possible to do this without hurting the poor. Some subsidies such as under the proposed Food Security Act will be pre-determined. Others, such as on fertilizers can be redesigned to serve their purpose at less cost. Subsidies on petroleum products which are untargeted and do not benefit the poor and the most needy, would need to be reduced.

Issuance of Aadhaar Cards

†1168. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of citizens who have been provided Aadhaar Card by Government till date;

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide Aadhaar Card at the earliest;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.