

(c) Government of Maharashtra has enacted the "Maharashtra Ground Water (Regulation for Drinking Water purposes) Act" in 1993. Further, a comprehensive draft ground water bill has been introduced in the Legislative Assembly to regulate and manage the ground water resources in the State. The Central Government also supplements the efforts of State Government for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources by way of technical and financial support through various schemes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme; Command Area Development and Water Management; Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies; Demonstrative Projects on Rainwater Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to ground water.

Cash subsidy to beneficiaries

*190. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some States are not in favour of cash subsidy to beneficiaries;
- (b) if so, the names of those States; and
- (c) whether Government would strengthen the existing Public Distribution System and eliminate leakages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) States such as Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu have indicated that they are not in favour of disbursement of food subsidy in cash in lieu of allocation of foodgrains to beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

(c) Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. Government has regularly reviewed and has issued instructions to States/UTs to strengthen functioning of TPDS and check leakages/diversion of foodgrains by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the viability of Fair Price Shop operations.