

- (2) Circuit Benches from National Commission have been frequently visiting States;
- (3) Some State Commissions have constituted Additional Benches mainly to dispose off backlog of pending cases;
- (4) The National Commission and some of the State Commissions as well as District Fora are adopting the process of holding Lok Adalats for speedy disposal of the cases;
- (5) Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs for strengthening of infrastructure of Consumer Fora including computerization and networking with a view to expedite disposal of cases.

Linking of food subsidy to cash transfer

2963. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to link food subsidy/Public Distribution System to cash transfer;
- (b) if so, whether the scheme has already been implemented;
- (c) if so, whether Government has undertaken any initiative to understand the impact and consequences of the scheme on the poor;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government at present for disbursement of food subsidy in cash instead of allocation of foodgrains to beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

- (b) to (e) Do not arise.

Storage capacity of FCI

2964. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is incapable of storing foodgrains due to which there is wastage of foodgrains;