Government has already decided that States and Union Territories should implement end to end computerisation, put the list of beneficiaries in public domain and set up vigilance committees etc. before implementing the NFSA.

3. HLC has recommended for gradual introduction of cash transfers in PDS, starting with large cities with more than one million population; extending it to grain surplus States, and then giving option to deficit States to opt for cash or physical grain distribution.

   Government has decided to implement this recommendation with an appropriate strategy to maintain a balance between the cash transfer of subsidy and availability of foodgrains in the market. Further, Government has decided to implement it only in those States/UTs, which are agreed to and ready for it.

4. HLC has recommended that Negotiable Warehouse Receipt System (NWRS) should be taken up on priority and scaled up quickly. Under this system, farmers can deposit their produce to the registered warehouses, and get say 80 per cent advance from banks against their produce valued at MSP, they can sell later when they feel prices are good for them. This will bring back the private sector, reduce massively the costs of storage to the Government, and be more compatible with a market economy. GoI, through FCI and Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) can encourage building of these warehouses with better technology, and keep an on-line track of grain stocks with them on daily/weekly basis in due course, GoI can explore whether this system can be used to compensate the farmers in case of market prices falling below MSP without physically handling large quantities of grain.

   The WDRA is already implementing a plan to scale up the NWRS and some banks are already providing credit facility against the stocks deposited in warehouses. The Government has not found the idea of procurement of foodgrains by FCI at MSP against the NWRs from the farmers after a period of time to be very practical.

Allocation of pending amount to Chhattisgarh for agricultural schemes

†*202. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval for the seven new Krishi Vigyan Kendras at Bemtara, Balod, Mungeli, Sarguja, Kondagaon, Raipur and Sukma in Chhattisgarh is pending with Centre, if so, by when this approval will be accorded;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) by when the pending amount of interim allocation under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and the allocation sanctioned for the sub-scheme of Green Revolution Extension would be released to Chhattisgarh; and

(c) by when the action plan for this year under Sub Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine (SMPP) would be approved and amount released to Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Government has given approval for setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Bemetara, Balod, Mungeli, Kondagaon, Raipur, Sukma, Surajpur and Durg districts of Chhattisgarh during Twelfth Plan. for this purpose, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has constituted a Site Selection Committee to identify the suitable sites in these districts. The ICAR has already set up a KVK in Surguja district of the State.

(b) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is a State Plan Scheme launched in August, 2007. An amount of ₹ 157.21 crore (interim), including ₹ 80.50 crore for Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), has been allocated to State Government of Chhattisgarh for implementation of the scheme during 2015-16. Half (50%) of this allocated fund has been released to the State Government of Chhattisgarh on 16.07.2015 (₹ 38.35 crore for Normal RKVY and ₹ 40.25 crore for BGREI) on the basis of project approved by State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) of State Government. The second installment of the scheme funds are released to State after receiving Utilization Certificate (UC) of the funds released as well as physical and financial report from the State Government.

(c) the State Government of Chhattisgarh is yet to furnish Utilization Certificate for ₹ 12.61 lakhs against funds released to the State in 2012-13. Besides, the proposal of the State Government was found wanting in critical details. As such the proposal of the State Government for sanction of ₹ 40.05 lakhs for Strengthening of Bio Control Laboratory at Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya and State Pesticides Testing Laboratory could not be considered.

Slow-down in launching of new drugs

*203. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's drugs price control measures, being taken since the year 2011, have resulted in a drastic slow-down in launching of new drugs by drug manufacturing companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) As per information available, there has not been drastic slow down in launching of new drugs by drug manufacturing companies.