

Statement-IV

The steps taken by Central Government for providing remunerative prices to farmers including backward and tribal areas for their crops

1. Keeping in view the procurement potential areas, procurement Centres for MSP operations are opened by Government agencies, both FCI and State Government, after mutual consultations.
2. Farmers are made aware of the MSP operations by way of advertisements like displaying banners, pamphlets, announcement for MSP and specification in print and electronic media.
3. Payment for the wheat and paddy procured from farmers is either made directly to the farmers or through arthias/co-operative societies as per prevailing system of the State. Payment to farmers are also made through A/c payee cheque/electronic mode. Even in respect of paddy purchased by millers, GOI has already advised State Government to ensure payment to farmers by millers/Pvt. traders through A/c payee cheque so that trail of payment can be made while issuing MSP certificate to millers for delivery of levy rice to State Government/FCI.
4. State Governments are encouraged to undertake decentralized procurement, so as to enhance the procurement of foodgrains.
5. MSP has been enhanced from time to time to encourage delivery of foodgrains into Central pool purchase.

Implementation of DBT scheme

580. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to directly transfer the food subsidy to consumers to restrict fake beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details of the plan prepared by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government has estimated that the subsidy bill could fall by 20 per cent a year if the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme is fully implemented; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to implement the DBT scheme fully?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) There are various methods to check leakages and diversion of foodgrains. Direct Transfer of Cash subsidy is one

of such options, which has also been discussed in various forums. Its implementation however depends upon readiness of States/Union Territories in terms of digitization and de-duplication of beneficiaries database, seeded with available Aadhaar and bank accounts numbers, and it can be taken up on specific request from States/UTs. For a pilot scheme, interest has been shown by UT of Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Puducherry and they are making necessary preparations. No assessment of the impact of the scheme is available.

Rise in prices of pulses

581. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of pulses have risen by up to 64 per cent in last one year, if so, whether Government has ascertained reasons for the same, the details thereof;

(b) the details of measures taken to rein in the prices to keep inflation down amid forecast of deficit monsoon;

(c) whether Government has maintained data as to how much the price of a particular pulse has increased during last one year, if so, the details thereof, pulse-wise; and

(d) the prevailing wholesale price of M-31 sugar in open market together with price of said sugar prevailed in market during January-June, 2015?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) Over the last one year, the increase in retail prices of major pulses have ranged between 12.63% to 40.73%. The main reason for the sharp increase in prices of pulses is a decline in production on account of adverse weather conditions.

(b) The requisite details are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) Yes, Sir. The requisite details are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) As reported by the Varanasi Center, the prevailing wholesale and retail prices of M31 sugar are ₹ 2800 per quintal and ₹ 30/- per kg respectively. The corresponding prices during January to June, 2015 was as given below:—

Monthly Average Prices of M31 Sugar

Month	Wholesale (₹/qtl.)	Retail (₹/kg.)
January	3500	38
February	3500	38