

- Following a National Consultation Meeting held with States/UTs on 7th July, 2015, a six months joint action plan (July to December, 2015) has been agreed for implementation. This covers identification of vulnerable areas where supply shortages occur, ensure that stock out situation do not occur for items of common consumption and also review of APMC Act with reference to onion, potatoes and tomatoes to remove inter-State barriers to internal trade.

#### **Use of bio diesel**

728. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:

DR. CHANDAN MITRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has set any standards for higher usages of bio-diesel in automobiles, locomotives, heavy engineering machines and generator to boost usage of green and clean energy, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in the matter in orders to facilitate increased use of cost effective bio-diesel across the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), through its relevant Sectional Committee has finalized the standard for higher usage of bio-diesel, which is currently under print.

(b) Government has issued notification on 10th August, 2015 to allow the sale of Bio-Diesel (B100) to bulk consumers like Railways, State Transport Corporations and other bulk consumers. Also, retailing of bio-diesel blended diesel by Oil Marketing Companies has started on World Biofuel Day, i.e., 10th August, 2015.

#### **Computerization of ration cards**

729. SHRIMATI SARAJINI HEMBRAM : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) in how many States the ration cards of the beneficiaries are computerized; and

(b) whether Government has set a target of computerization of PDS cards throughout the country in order to curb their duplication, if so, the details thereof?