

Cash transfer of food subsidy rules

1690. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of consultations carried out by Government for the formulation of Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy rules notified on 21 August, 2015;

(b) the steps Government will take to ensure that those who choose not to enrol under Aadhaar will be able to access their food subsidy, as ordered by the Supreme Court; and

(c) the steps Government will take to ensure that the cash transfer quantum is increased regularly in line with inflation rates?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) For finalization of the Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, consultations on the draft Rules were held with the concerned agencies of the Government of India and the States/UTs.

(b) Cash transfer of food subsidy is made into bank accounts of beneficiaries. Seeding of bank accounts with Aadhaar is not mandatory for the cash transfer, though it is being encouraged for de-duplication of beneficiaries and to ensure correct transfer of cash. All the States/UTs have however been advised to ensure that no beneficiary is denied benefits for not getting the Aadhaar. Further, in areas not under cash transfer mode, eligible households are getting benefits of subsidized foodgrains, distributed through the Targeted Public Distribution System.

(c) Under the Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015, the amount of food subsidy payable to beneficiaries is linked to the applicable Minimum Support Price (MSP). Since the MSP is revised every year, the amount payable as cash subsidy is adjusted upwards accordingly.

Paste and powder formulation of onions and potatoes

1691. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering promoting consumption of onions and potatoes in processed form after taking cognizance of the extreme price fluctuations of these two vegetables;

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to promote this idea to benefit the average consumer, and the funds Government proposes to set aside to incentivize farmers to convert the vegetables to flake, paste and powder form; and