

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) For bringing transparency in distribution of foodgrains and real time monitoring of the distribution through the PDS portal, States/ Union Territories have been asked to install Point of Sale (PoS) devices at fair price shops (FPS) for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of transaction of foodgrains. As per reports received from States/UTs, there are about 1.11 lakh operational PoS devices in different States/UTs, including Tamil Nadu. However, transactions details in respect of all the PoS devices, including those installed in Tamil Nadu, are not available in real time in the public domain.

Digitization of ration cards for DBT scheme

1523. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has attained 100 per cent digitization of ration cards for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) as per the National Food Security Act;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the mandatory installation of e-Point of Sale machines has been done for the distribution of subsidy grains in all the States implementing DBT?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The entire ration card database in all the States/UTs has been digitised.

(c) For bringing transparency and to check leakages and diversion of foodgrains, States/UTs have been asked to opt for any of the two models of Direct Benefit Transfer - Cash transfer of food subsidy into the bank account of beneficiaries or fair price shop (FPS) automation, which involves installation of Point of Sale (PoS) device at FPS, for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of transactions. The cash transfer of food subsidy is being implemented in 3 UTs namely Chandigarh, Puducherry and partially in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. For remaining areas, States/UTs have been requested to expedite the pace of FPS automation. Out of 5.32 lakh FPSs across the country, about 1.11 lakh FPSs have been automated.

Introduction of E-warranty system

1524. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to introduce e-warranty system to protect consumers for cases where they misplace warranties/guarantees in physical forms;

(b) if so, the details of the progress on the same and whether a deadline has been proposed for the functioning of such a set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) Product warrantee/guarantee are provided by the companies as per their policy.

Providing pulses through PDS

1525. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to provide pulses through PDS;

(b) how can Government do this when production of pulses is inadequate;

(c) to achieve (a) above, why cannot the Government import pulses on its own, either through MMTS or other agency;

(d) the import of various kinds of pulses, during the last five years, year-wise, variety-wise and country-wise; and

(e) the efforts being made by Government to stop cartelization of Indian pulses importers abroad to maintain price stability in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is also no plan to import pulses for its distribution through PDS.

(d) The details showing import of various kinds of pulses, during the last five years, year-wise, variety-wise and country-wise are given in Statement-I and II respectively (*See* below).

(e) Preventing cartelization within India falls within the domain of State Governments/UT Administrations. Necessary advisories in this regard have been issued to them.