

Out of which an amount of ₹.48.81 crores has been released against ₹ 54.26 crores as central share of funds to the State Government during last three years and an amount of ₹ 29.07 crores has been utilized by the State Government. The Component-I of scheme comprises activities namely digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries and other data bases, online allocation, computerization of supply chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms. As per the information, transparency portal has been setup and digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries' database, online allocation upto FPS level, toll free/online grievance have been completed in all districts. However, computerization of supply chain management has not been implemented.

(d) The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for food-grains has been implemented on pilot basis only in 3 UTs *i.e.* Chandigarh and Puducherry and partially in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. During the month of July, 2016 the payments have been made to 1,97,103 households through Aadhaar out of 2,04,376 households. The detail is given in the Statement.

Statement

Status of DBT households and Aadhaar bridge payment

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Households	Aadhaar Bridge Payment Households
1.	Chandigarh	47,250	47,250
2.	Puducherry	1,49,735	1,49,732
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	7,391	121
TOTAL		2,04,376	1,97,103

Note: *DBT in Cash Transfer mode has been implemented for 14 FPS areas (*i.e.* Silvassa Municipal and Dadra Panchayat areas) of Dadra and Nagar Haveli UT.

Containing the prices of pulses

†618. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to contain the prices of pulses and to take action against hoarders of pulses;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action in this regard till now;

(c) if so, the details of action taken and the results thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the manner in which Government desires to contain the increasing prices of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has set up a Group of Officers involving various enforcement agencies for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization, etc. During 2015-16, domestic searches and surveys were conducted on some importers, traders and financiers engaged in the pulses trade. The prices of pulses *inter-alia* is also influenced by hoarding and black-marketing. The regular monitoring and coordinated action of the Government helps moderate the prices through disincentivising such hoarding/black-marketing.

The details of raids, seizure and disposal of pulses are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(d) The measures taken by Government to contain the prices of pulses are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Enforcement data for pulses under Essential Commodities Act, 1955

[period: from October, 2015 till date (19.7.2016)]

Sl. No.	State	Raids conducted, quantity seized and quantity disposed (MT)			
		Raids	Qty seized	Qty disposed	Balance
1.	Chhattisgarh	112	6566.62	6439.25	127.37
2.	Haryana	1669	14.60	14.60	Nil
3.	Karnataka	1351	25545.83	23710.94	1834.94
4.	Madhya Pradesh	969	3273.60	2201.90	1071.60
5.	Maharashtra	5250	87167.37	87167.37	Nil
6.	Telangana	1924	9534.40	3261.03	6173.37
7.	Rajasthan	875	2610.21	2298.81	311.00
8.	Jharkhand	140	282.02	0	282.02
9.	Odisha	180	1410.26	1410.26	-
10.	Andhra Pradesh	1352	1720.30	452.50	1277.80
11.	Gujarat	214	54.39	0	54.39
12.	Himachal Pradesh	500	3.42	0	3.42
13.	NCT of Delhi	76	14.16	8.26	6.34
TOTAL		14612	138197.18	126964.92	11142.25

Statement-II

Steps taken by the Government to improve the availability and to contain prices of Tur and Urad:

1. Approved creation of buffer stock of pulses for effective market intervention and designated agencies have procured around 1.75 lakh MT of pulses through domestic procurement and imports. 5000 MT of Tur were also imported during 2015.
2. The Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mozambique for import of pulses Tur and other pulses on Government-to-Government (G2G) basis.
3. Released Tur and Urad from the buffer stock to States/UTs/Central Agencies at subsidized rates for its retailing by them at not more than ₹ 120/-per kg.
4. To boost production of pulses, largest increase in MSP (including bonus) raised for Kharif crop of 2016-17 season has been accorded to Tur and Urad and Moong.
5. Advisory were issued to State Governments to take strict action against hoarding and black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
6. About 1.38 lakh tonnes of pulses seized from 14,612 raids and disposed off 1.27 lakh tonnes either by auction or other means permitted under EC Act, 1955
7. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has banned new contracts in Chana to dampen speculative activities in Chana and in respect of running contracts in Chana disallowed taking fresh positions to reduce speculative activities.
8. Export of all pulses is banned except Kabuli channa and up to 10,000 MTs in Organic pulses and Lentils.
9. Import of pulses are allowed at zero import duty.
10. Stock limit on pulses extended till 30.9.2016.
11. Set up a mechanism for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization etc. amongst the concerned agencies.
12. Strict vigilance by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence to prevent importers from mis-using the facilities of Customs Bonded Warehouse facility.