

(RSFCSC) Ltd., if so, by when the above claims will be settled; and

(b) whether Government of Rajasthan has sent any request to the Central Government to ensure timely offtaking of foodgrains, if so, by when the above request would be conceded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY) (a) No, Sir. The Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund (LSPEF) claims are submitted by Rajasthan State Food Civil Supplies Corporation (RSFCSC) Ltd., to Food Corporation of India (FCI) for payment. FCI has informed that the RSFCSC Ltd. submitted its last bills on 05.09.2016 for an amount of ₹ 22,50,951.00 which has already been released on 29.10.2016.

(b) Yes, Sir. The request of the State Government of Rajasthan regarding extension of validity period has been received, but the same was not agreed to by the Central Government.

Leakages in PDS

1198. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are leakages in Public Distribution System (PDS) in many States; and

(b) if so, the initiatives taken by Government to plug these leakages in PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries/families, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to beneficiaries and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of TPDS including leakages in PDS in certain regions/States in the country.

(b) To plug the leakages in TPDS, the Department of Food and Public Distribution is implementing a Plan Scheme on 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' under Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) on cost sharing basis with the States/UTs. The Scheme comprises of activities namely, digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and

other databases, computerisation of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms and installation of e PoS devices at Fair Price Shops and issuance of foodgrains through biometric authentication.

Besides above, all States/UTs have been also requested to seed the Aadhaar numbers in Ration Card database. The scheme will enable removal of bogus/ineligible ration cards and better targeting of food subsidy, facilitate availability of foodgrains to intended beneficiaries at Fair Price Shops (FPS), check leakages and diversions etc.

Distribution of essential commodities at subsidized rates

1199. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States who have taken steps to distribute essential commodities at subsidized rates through Government outlets; and

(b) the details of the subsidized price index of pulses and edible oils, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the States/UTs are providing subsidized foodgrains through PDS outlets. Central Statistical Office (CSO) does not compile Consumer Price Indexes (CPIs) separately based on subsidized prices of pulses and edible oils. However, States/UTs are also selling other essential commodities, as per details given in the Statement.