

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) No such survey has been conducted.

In order to identify and weed out duplicate/ineligible ration cards/beneficiaries from PDS, and to enable 'Rightful Targeting' of food subsidies - States/UTs have been asked to seed the available Aadhaar numbers of eligible beneficiaries with their ration cards. However, this Department has also issued clear instructions to all States/UTs that, no eligible beneficiary should be denied from his/her entitled quota of subsidised foodgrains due to non-availability of Aadhaar number / failure of biometric authentication / any other technical reasons. At the national level, 82.4% ration cards under NFSA have been seeded with Aadhaar numbers of at least one member of the household.

Prevention of food wastage

‡4568. 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 upon prevention of food wastage;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard, so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Government carries out publicity campaign through print and electronic media to sensitize people against Food Wastage from time to time. In addition, States/UTs were advised by Central Government to include chapter on prevention of food wastage in the school syllabi to inculcate awareness among young students sensitize them against food wastage at the growing age itself.

Aadhaar-Based cash transfers under PDS

4569. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to go ahead with their decision of scrapping the PDS and replacing it with Aadhaar-based cash transfers or plans to take into

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

consideration the recommendations proposed in the report commissioned by NITI Aayog to evaluate the pilot project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time period set by Government to complete the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As part of Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, States/UTs have been asked to opt for any of the two models of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) namely- Cash Transfer of food subsidy in to the bank account of beneficiaries; or Automation of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), which involves installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device at FPSs for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of sale transactions.

The Cash Transfer of food subsidy is being implemented in the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Puducherry (w.e.f. 1st Sept' 2015) and in few urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli (w.e.f. 1st March 2016). Other States/UTs have not opted for Direct (Cash) Transfers of food subsidy, and have been asked to expedite the pace of installing ePoS devices at FPSs. Presently, out of 5.27 lakh FPSs across the country (except UTs on Cash Transfers) about 3.02 lakh FPSs have ePoS devices.

Regulation of the prices of essential commodities

4570. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to regulate the extreme fluctuations in the market price of essential commodities in the market place almost on a daily basis to help the common people of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Government is monitoring prices of select essential commodities on a daily basis. These price trends are reviewed on regular basis at highest levels, including by Committee of Ministers, Committee of Secretaries, Inter-Ministerial Committee etc. for appropriate policy intervention to ensure availability and price stability.