

Sugar subsidy

864. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any other States, like the State of Tamil Nadu, had requested the Central Government to enhance the subsidy rate of sugar from 18.50 to 28.50 per kg.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on the request made by the State Government of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government has reviewed the sugar subsidy scheme and has decided to continue it only for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Under the revised sugar subsidy scheme, the Central Government continues to reimburse a fixed subsidy of ₹ 18.50 per kg. @ 1 kg per month per AAY family to participating States/UTs.

Linking of ration card with Aadhaar

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

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure that no individual is denied PDS benefits even if he/she does not have Aadhaar or has not linked his ration card to the number; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Food and Public Distribution has issued clear instructions to all States/UT Governments that no beneficiary/household shall be deleted from the list of eligible beneficiaries/households only on the ground of not possessing Aadhaar, and shall also not be denied subsidized foodgrains or cash transfer of food subsidy under NFSA due to non-availability of Aadhaar or failure of biometric authentication due to network/connectivity/linking issues/poor biometric of the beneficiary or other technical reasons. The State/UT Governments are required to comply with the provisions