

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) An MoU was signed between Ministry of Railways and Coal India Limited in regard to procurement of 2000 wagons of 25 T axle load BOXN wagons by Coal India Limited for movement of coal. However, in the MoU there is no provision of payment of lease charges by Indian Railways to Coal India Limited.

**Allocation of funds to Kerala for strengthening of PDS**

2486. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme has been implemented all over the country;

(b) if so, the total amount transferred to the bank accounts of beneficiaries of PDS under DBT so far since its starting. State-wise;

(c) whether any financial aid is provided to States/UTs for strengthening the PDS such as for digitisation of ration cards and setting up of computerized Fair Price Shops, etc.; and

(d) if so, the amount allotted to Kerala so far, for the above said activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The cash transfer of food subsidy scheme is being implemented in the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The details regarding date of implementation of the scheme and amount transferred into the bank accounts of beneficiaries under it, since its start and unto March, 2018 in these UTs is given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the UT	Date of implementation	Amount transferred (₹ in crore)
1.	Chandigarh	September, 2015	75.76
2.	Puducherry	September, 2015	255.78
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	March, 2016	10.74

Further, a pilot scheme of Direct Benefit Transfer on the pattern of 'PAHAL' has been started in Nagri Block of Ranchi District w.e.f. 01.10.2017 under which subsidy component is credited in advance into beneficiaries account and beneficiaries purchase

foodgrains from Fair Price Shops (FPS) at the Economic Cost of foodgrains. For this purpose, ₹ 97.13 lakh has been released to Government of Jharkhand as advance.

(c) and (d) End-to-End Computerization of TPDS Operations is being implemented in all States/UTs on cost sharing basis. The cost sharing between Centre and States is on 90:10 basis for North Eastern States, whereas for other States/UTs cost is shared on 50:50 basis. The scheme comprises digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, online allocation, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanism etc. In addition, for installation of e-Point of Sale devices at FPSs and foodgrains transactions through it, States/UTs are eligible for Central assistance at the norm of ₹ 17/Quintal, for which sharing pattern between Centre and States is 75:25 for Special Category States/UTs and 50:50 for General Category States/UTs. Under the scheme of End-to-End Computerization of TPDS Operations, ₹ 10.95 crore has been released as Central share to the State Government of Kerala during financial year 2013-14 (₹ 7.30 crore) and 2016-17 (₹ 3.65 crore).

#### **Supply of subsidized sugar, rice and pulses to Tamil Nadu**

2487. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is in receipt of any request from Government of Tamil Nadu to extend the coverage of subsidized sugar, rice and pulses to all priority households and to enhance the subsidy given for these essential food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's stand on this issue;

(c) whether the subsidy rate for sugar has not been increased since a long time in accordance with the rise in market price and the additional costs being borne by the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the Government's stand on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Government of Tamil Nadu has represented to the Central Government in June and August, 2017, *inter-alia*, requesting to extend the coverage of subsidized sugar to all priority households and enhance the sugar subsidy from ₹ 18.50 to at least ₹ 28.50 per kg. for distribution of sugar under Public Distribution System (PDS) in the State.

The Government has reviewed the earlier sugar subsidy scheme and has decided to continue to reimburse a fixed subsidy of ₹ 18.50 per kg. @ 1 kg. sugar per month