

(c) Spectrum is being allocated to different users strictly as per the approved policy and guidelines of the Government. There is no irregularity, whatsoever, in allocation of spectrum.

GST on the spectrum

668. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to scrap GST on the spectrum, licence fee or refund of input credits for telecom operators;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the telecom operators have made any request to TRAI to do so; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The matter pertains to Ministry of Finance. However, DoT has requested Ministry of Finance *Vide* D.O.No. 37-1/2017/LFP-I (part) dated 29.11.2018 for favorable consideration of the telecom industry's request for removing levy of GST on reverse charge basis on payments to government such as spectrum usage charges, licence fee, and right of way charges and for refund of unutilized/ accumulated input credits.

(c) and (d) In a meeting taken by the TRAI with CEOs of telecom companies on 15th June, 2017, the issue for reduction of the GST rate on the telecom services was raised by telecom operators.

Implementation of cash for food scheme

†669. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is implementing the Cash for Food scheme on pilot basis in some States;

(b) if so, the objective behind implementing this scheme; and

(c) whether this amount is sufficient enough to purchase better quality nutritious foodgrains from the market, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The scheme of cash transfer of food subsidy is implemented as per provisions of the Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015, notified under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). The cash transfer of food subsidy scheme is being implemented in Union Territories of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Under this scheme, the admissible amount of subsidy is directly transferred into the bank account of beneficiaries. The scheme provides greater autonomy to beneficiaries to choose their consumption basket and also reduces the need for physical movement of foodgrains. It reduces leakages and facilitates better targeting while promoting financial inclusion.

As per Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, the amount of food subsidy payable to a entitled household shall be computed by multiplying entitled quantity of foodgrains with difference between 1.25 times applicable Minimum Support Price (MSP) (Derived Minimum Support Price in the case of rice) and the Central Issue Prices (*i.e.* ₹1/2/3 for coarsegrains/wheat/rice respectively) or as may be revised from time to time, by the Central Government. As and when the MSP is revised, the amount of food subsidy is revised accordingly.

Diversion of subsidised foodgrains under PDS

670. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR:

DR. BANDA PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been large scale leakages and diversion of subsidised foodgrains meant for the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details of the diversion of subsidised foodgrains, State-wise;

(c) whether creation of the e-portal helped to track these issues more effectively and increased transparency in the system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments, wherein the operational responsibilities within the State/UT rest with the respective State/UT Government. As and when complaints are received in this Department from individuals, organisations as well as through