

sustain the reforms brought in by scheme on 'End to End Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations' the Department of Food and Public Distribution has launched a new scheme namely "Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)" for implementation during 2018-19 and 2019-20. The main objective of the scheme is to introduce nation-wide portability of ration card holders under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), to lift their entitlement foodgrains from any FPS in the country without the need to obtain a new ration card, by integrating the existing PDS systems/portals of States/UTs with the Central systems/portals, etc. The national portability under 'One Nation One Ration Card' system shall be applicable only to the ration card holders under NFSA.

Under IM-PDS scheme, there is no requirement to change the functioning of existing PDS systems/operations of the States/UTs.

So far, 20 States/UTs have completed the installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices in all FPSs. This scheme is planned to commence in phased manner in States/UTs preferably in States/UTs having ePoS devices functioning properly in FPSs.

Assistance to sugar mills to offset the cost of sugarcane

†3110. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

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

(a) whether in order to offset the cost of sugarcane, sugar mills were given assistance at the rate of 5.50 per quintal during 2017-18 and at an increased rate of ₹13.88 per quintal during 2018-19;

(b) if so, details of amount given to sugar mills under this head as assistance and whether any assessment has been done to know the number of farmers who were paid in time;

(c) whether the amount given by Government for sugarcane payment to farmers is being utilised by sugar mills under other heads; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) With a view to offset the cost of cane and facilitate timely payment of cane price dues of farmers for sugar season 2017-18, Government has notified a scheme on 9th May, 2018 envisaging assistance to sugar mills @ ₹ 5.50 per qtl. of cane crushed. Under a similar scheme notified on 5th October, 2018 for sugar season 2018-19, assistance is to be extended to sugar mills @ ₹ 13.88 per quintal of cane crushed.

(b) to (d) The Central Government has so far extended assistance amounting to ₹ 392.76 crore to sugar mills under the scheme notified on 9th May, 2018. No funds have so far been released under the scheme notified on 5th October, 2018. As per provisions of both the schemes, banks shall credit the amount of assistance to the farmers' accounts on behalf of the mills against cane dues payable and subsequent balance, if any, shall be credited into mill's account. Data regarding number of farmers benefitted under the scheme is not maintained by the Government.

Augmentation of storage facility

3111. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

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

(a) whether the current capacity of storage of foodgrains in the country is sufficient to meet the demand for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has any plan to increase the warehousing and storage capacity; and

(d) if so, whether Government intends to use public-private-partnership (PPP) to augment the storage capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (d) Against total stocks of 742.52 LMT (as on 01.07.2019), the total storage capacity