

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Sugar Subsidy Released (₹ in crore)
1.	2014-15	160.72
2.	2015-16	174.44
3.	2016-17	126.32
4.	2017-18	50.02
5.	2018-19	20.34
	TOTAL	531.84

Further during current Financial Year 2019-20, a total sugar subsidy of about ₹ 15.25 crore has been released to the State of Andhra Pradesh, upto the September, 2019.

(c) and (d) After the implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 in the country, the Government reviewed the sugar subsidy scheme and has decided to continue it only for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families w.e.f. 01.06.2017. The Central Government is reimbursing a fixed subsidy of ₹ 18.50 per kg. @ 1 kg. per month per AAY family to the participating States/UTs.

Implementation of DBT scheme

717. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes announced by the Central Government for the DBT scheme and recommended to the States;

(b) the number of States that have accepted the scheme *in toto* or in part, along with the details thereof;

(c) whether any State or Union Territory has sought exemption for distribution of free rice scheme; and

(d) whether, considering the woes of the female members of the family wherein the heads of the families misuse the money deposited in banks, would Government allow the distribution of rice instead of cash, at least for BPL families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b)

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) which *inter alia* provides that the scheme can be taken up in identified areas, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions regarding preparedness for its implementation. Identified area is defined under the Rules as State or Union Territory or any specified area within the State or Union Territory for which there is a written consent of the State Government for implementation of the scheme. It is therefore optional for the States/UTs to implement the cash transfer of food subsidy scheme or continue with distribution of foodgrains as per provisions of NFSA through fair price shops.

The cash transfer of food subsidy scheme is being implemented in Union Territories of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

(c) Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015 have been notified under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. NFSA does not have any provision for distribution of free rice. Therefore, question of exemption of free rice scheme under NFSA does not arise.

(d) No report of woes of female members of the family against misuse of cash under DBT (cash) scheme has been received from any of the 3 UTs where DBT (cash) is being implemented. Further, the decision to implement cash transfer of food subsidy scheme or continue with distribution of foodgrains through Fair Price Shops under NFSA rests with the State Government/UT Administration.

Mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery

718. SHRI A. MOHAMMEDJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to open hallmarking centres in all districts of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has not received comments on the draft Quality Control Order for mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts that was hosted on WTO website on 10.10.2019; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per global trade rules of WTO, a member country has to notify Quality Control Order and that India is a part of the 164- member WTO since 1995?