Hoarding of essential items in Karnataka

1503. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of illegal hoarding of essential commodities like potato, rice, pulses, etc., that have been brought to notice of Government in the State of Karnataka after March, 2020;

(b) if so, the action that has been taken by Government against such illegal hoarders;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent the hoarding of essential items in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(d) the number of people in the State of Karnataka who have been convicted of illegal hoarding of essential items this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) State Government of Karnataka has reported that, since no stock limits have been imposed there is no question of taking action treating a stock illegal hoarding. However, 200 cases of storing/transporting PDS commodities illegally were detected and cases booked under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Out of these 200 cases, 181 FIRs have been lodged and 199 suspected have been arrested.

(c) and (d) Action against hoarding of essential food commodities are taken by State Government, through conducting of periodical inspections and surprise raids regularly. During the year so far no person has been convicted for illegal hoarding of essential items.

Implementation of One Nation One Ration Card Scheme

†1504. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has formulated any plan to implement 'Pan India Ration Card';

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of action plan for implementing 'Pan India Ration Card' Scheme; and

(c) the details of the proposed role of State Governments, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) Yes Sir. By using same/existing ration card under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), the beneficiary may lift their entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice anywhere in the country under the One Nation One Ration Card plan.

(b) Initially the facility of inter-State portability was started in 4 States i.e. in two clusters of two adjoining States each in August 2019. So far, 26 States/UTs have enabled the national portability of NFSA ration cards in a single national level cluster. Further, this Department is continuously pursuing with remaining 10 States/UTs with an objective to enable the facility in all States/UTs by 31.03.2021. However, integration of remaining States/UTs is dependent on their readiness to implement the same in terms of installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at FPSs, enablement of biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries and other technical aspects.

(c) Since, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibilities of the Central and State/UT Governments, where *inter-alia* operational responsibilities for distribution of foodgrains to beneficiaries, installation of ePoS devices at FPSs, Aadhaar seeding of beneficiaries, enablement of biometric/ Aadhaar authentication facilities at all FPSs, supervision and monitoring of FPS operations, etc. rest with the respective State/UT Government, thus, the role of States/ UTs is integral to the implementation of One Nation One Ration Card plan.

Implementation of DBT Scheme

†1505. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Schemes and the ones recommended to States which have been proposed by Central Government; and

(b) the number of States which have adopted these schemes completely or in parts, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.