(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.

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

(b) The cash transfer of food subsidy scheme is being implemented completely in Union Territories of Chandigarh and Puducherry and in urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli of Union Territory of Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu.

Distribution of foodgrains during COVID-19 crisis

1506. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total allotted foodgrains which was distributed amongst the targeted beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY) during the COVID-19 crisis;

(b) whether Government is planning to undertake any steps to improve the Public Distribution System during the COVID-19 crisis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) Under the Phase-I of the pro-poor Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (*i.e.* PMGKAY-I), the Department on 30.03.2020 had allocated a total of about 121 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT) of foodgrains to all States/UTs for additional free-of-cost distribution to the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) for a period of 3 months *i.e.* from April to June 2020. As per reports available in the Department, an average of about 94% foodgrains were distributed by States/UTs in each of the three months of under PMGKAY-I.