

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1631
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH AUGUST, 2024

RUNNING OF RATION SHOPS BY GOVERNMENT

1631 SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the DBT scheme for ration card holders have been implemented throughout the country;
- (b) if so, how many States are running the ration shops and supplying the essentials in violation of the scheme;
- (c) on what conditions the Central Government has allowed to run the ration shops; and
- (d) if so, whether Government would permit the Union Territory of Puducherry to open ration shops due to heavy pressure from the public?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) & (b): A scheme of cash transfer of food subsidy directly into the bank account of beneficiaries of Public Distribution System instead of providing foodgrains is implemented on a pilot basis in the three Union Territories namely Chandigarh and Puducherry since September, 2015 and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli since March, 2016. The remaining States/UTs are distributing foodgrains to beneficiaries through fair price shops as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

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(c)& (d): The scheme of cash transfer of food subsidy scheme is implemented as per the provisions of Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015, notified under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) on 21.08.2015. As per these Rules, the scheme can be taken up in identified areas, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions regarding preparedness for its implementation like complete digitization and de-duplication of beneficiary database, seeding of bank account details in the digitized beneficiary database and availability of foodgrains in the open market. 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 the distribution of foodgrains as per the provisions of NFSA through fair price shops.
