GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:246
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
COMPUTERISATION OF PDS
Choudhary Shri Harish;Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausaheb

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

(a) the present status of implementation of the computerisation project under the Public Distribution System (PDS) along with the percentage share of the Union and State Governments in the expenditure incurred/likely to be incurred thereto;

(b) the methodology adopted by the Union Government to fund the States for the said project along with the total funds allocated so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has directed the States to prepare and maintain a biometric database for PDS and to undertake pilot projects on various schemes envisaged under the computerisation project including smart cards;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto including the action taken/being taken by the Union Government in the matter; and

(e) the time by which the computerisation process is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 246 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 11.12.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) & (b): All States/Union Territories (UTs) have been requested to undertake end-to-end computerisation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). A Plan Scheme for providing financial assistance to States/UTs, namely 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' has been approved by the Government for implementation during the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) on cost-sharing basis. The scheme comprises activities, namely, digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, computerisation of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanism. Details of the present status of implementation of computerisation of TPDS as reported by States/UTs from time to time are annexed.

The total funding requirement for implementation of the scheme during 2012-17 has been worked out to Rs.884.07 crore. The cost sharing between Centre and States would be on 90:10 basis for the North-Eastern States, whereas for other States/UTs, cost is to be shared equally. Accordingly, shares of Government of India and State Governments/UT Administrations are estimated at Rs.489.37 crore and Rs.394.70 crore respectively. States/UTs have been requested to send proposals for financial assistance. No funds have been allocated so far under the Scheme.

(c) & (d) : As regards creation of biometric database for TPDS, since biometric information for all usual residents is being captured under the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)'s Aadhaar project or under the National Population Register (NPR), States/UTs have been advised that the digitization of ration card database may not include the capture of biometric information.

This Department had taken up a pilot scheme on Computerization of TPDS Operations to be implemented in 3 districts each of four of States such as Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Delhi. Another scheme for Smart Card based delivery of essential commodities is being undertaken on pilot basis in Chandigarh UT and Haryana. These pilot schemes will be subsumed under the Plan Scheme on 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations'.

(e): As per the timelines under the scheme, digitisation of beneficiary database is to be completed by March, 2013 and computerisation of supply-chain management is to be completed by October, 2013 by all States/UTs.