

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2857

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013

COMPUTERISATION OF PDS

Antony Shri Anto;Semmalai Shri S. ;Singh Rajkumari Ratna;Tudu Shri Laxman

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

- (a) whether the Government is making efforts to computerise the Public Distribution System (PDS) with a view to ensuring distribution of commodities to the intended beneficiaries;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof along with the assistance sought by the States and provided to them for the purpose till date, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is seeking to introduce and expand bio-metric technology in PDS to improve its efficiency and check irregularities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reasons for delay in completion of the computerisation process and introduction of bio-metric technology along with the steps taken to streamline its expansion?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): For modernisation of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including ensuring that foodgrains reach the intended beneficiaries, Government has approved Component-I of Plan Scheme for End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations. Component-I of the scheme comprises activities, namely, digitization of ration card/ beneficiary and other databases, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanisms.

The Scheme is approved for implementation in all States/UTs on cost-sharing basis under the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) at a total cost of Rs.884.07 crore, out of which Government of India's share is Rs. 489.37 crore and States/UTs share is Rs. 394.70 crore. The cost sharing between Centre and States would be on 90:10 basis for North-Eastern States, whereas for other States/UTs, costs will be shared on 50:50 basis. National Informatics Centre (NIC) is the technical partner under the scheme and has prepared a Common Application Software (CAS) for use by States/UTs as per their requirements. A statement regarding the State/UT-wise status of computerisation of TPDS is at Annex -I. Under the scheme, proposals for financial assistance have been received from 28 States/UTs. Upto 23.08.2013, a total of Rs.132.32 crore has been released to 13 States, details of which are given at Annex -II.

(c) to (e): Yes, Madam. Use of biometric technology will ensure correct identification and authentication of the beneficiaries under TPDS. This will also enable de-duplication of bogus / ineligible ration cards or units therein. Whereas Component-I of the scheme referred in parts

(a) and (b) above is being implemented at present, the exact model of Fair Price Shop (FPS) automation i.e. Component-II of the scheme would be finalized by the Government in consultation with States/UTs.