

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:772

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013

COMPUTERISATION OF PDS

Das Shri Ram Sundar;Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni;Lal Shri Kirodi ;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

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 the State Governments in the expenditure incurred/likely to be incurred thereon;
- (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 all the States to start end to end computerisation, prepare and maintain a biometric database for PDS and to undertake pilot projects on various alternative schemes envisaged under the computerisation project including smart cards;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereon including the action taken/being taken by the Union Government in the matter;
- (e) the time by which the computerisation process is likely to be completed; and
- (f) whether the Union Government has decided for centralised monitoring of the computerisation project and sought information from the States regarding the progress made by them and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States, thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) All States/Union Territories (UTs) have been requested to undertake end-to-end computerisation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Government has approved Component-I of the Plan Scheme, namely, 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' for providing financial assistance to

States/UTs for implementation during the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17). The Component-I 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. The present status of computerisation of TPDS as reported by States/UTs upto 30.11.2013 is at Annex-I.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is being given to States/UTs on cost sharing basis. The total requirement for implementation of Component-I 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, the cost is to be shared equally. Accordingly, the share of Government of India and State Governments/UT Administrations is estimated at Rs.489.37 crore and Rs.394.70 crore respectively. States/UTs have been requested to send their proposals for financial assistance. Proposals have been received from 28 States/UTs. The first installment of Centre's share of funds totaling Rs.168.77 crore has been sanctioned to 18 States as per the provisions of the scheme. State/UT wise details of the funds sanctioned so far are at Annex-II.

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. As regards use of smart cards, automation at the fair price shop level would be taken up by the Government as part of Component-II of the Plan Scheme.

(e) As per the timelines under the scheme, digitisation of beneficiary database was to be completed by March, 2013 and computerisation of supply-chain management was to be completed by October, 2013 by all States/UTs. However, implementation is uneven across the country due to delay in finalization of action plans by States/UTs, late submission of their proposals for financial assistance, practical problems faced during implementation, etc.

(f) Computerization of TPDS has been taken up as a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) by the Central Government. As per MMP guidelines, a dedicated institutional mechanism by way of an Empowered Committee (EC) and a Central Project e-Mission Team (CPeMT) for computerization of TPDS has been set up. States/UTs have also been requested to establish a two-tier structure at their level comprising a State Apex Committee as well as a State Project e-Mission Team (SPeMT).

Further, to ensure monitoring of the project, States/UTs have been asked to send monthly progress reports. The progress is also regularly reviewed in conferences, one-to-one meetings, etc.