

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3326

ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015

DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER

Chandrakasi Shri M.;Natterjee Shri J. Jayasingh Thiyagaraj;Singh Shri Lallu

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

- (a) whether any evaluation has been made regarding the performance of the scheme for Direct Transfer of Cash Subsidy introduced under the Public Distribution in some States;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the subsidy saved as a result thereof;
- (c) whether any consultations have been held with the States and other stakeholders for expansion of the scheme to all the States, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make the scheme optional for States along with the present foodgrain based system and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether some States including Tamil Nadu have requested the Government to implement the scheme through the State Governments for optimum implementation, if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto; and
- (f) the details of the subsidy presently paid and the amount likely to be saved as a result of the implementation of the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (f): No such scheme has been implemented by the Government. Direct transfer of cash subsidy is one of the options discussed in various fora for checking diversion of food-grains. This has also been discussed with States/Union Territories (UTs). Its implementation, however, depends upon readiness of States/UTs in terms of digitization and de-duplication of beneficiary data-base seeded with Aadhaar and bank account numbers and sufficient availability of foodgrains in open market. It can be taken up on specific requests from States/UTs. Interest has been shown by UT of Chandigarh and Puducherry.