

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:199  
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2015  
Direct Food Subsidy  
Hari Shri G.;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce direct transfer of food subsidy to the consumers and wind up the current Public Distribution System (PDS) to restrict the fake beneficiaries and limit the outgo of subsidy;
- (b) if so, the details of the plan prepared by the Union Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Union Government estimate indicate that the subsidy bill could fall by 20 per cent a year if the direct benefit transfer scheme is fully implemented; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the direct benefit transfer scheme fully?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): No, Madam. Government is at present not considering to change the distribution system of ration being given under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

There are various methods to check leakages and diversion of foodgrains. Direct Transfer of Cash subsidy is one of such options, which has also been discussed in various forums. Its implementation however depends upon readiness of States / Union Territories in terms of digitization and de-duplication of beneficiaries database, seeded with bank accounts numbers, and it can be taken up on specific request from States/UTs. Interest has been shown by UT of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Puducherry and they are making necessary preparations. The implications can be assessed only after implementation.

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