

The assistance provided to States/Union Territories during each of the last three years under the two schemes is as follows :

Year	Godown Scheme		Mobile Van Scheme		
	Capacity	No. of Godowns	Amount	No. of vehicles	Amount
	(In Mts)		(Rs. in lakhs)		(Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	26492	58	755	129	655.70
1996-97	37930	92	755	104	660.00
1997-98	50600	85	1188	157	949.99

(b) and (c) The Government did not carry out any special appraisal of the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the 8th Five Year Plan period. However, an evaluation of the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) launched in 1992 was carried out by the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission. This evaluation indicated that the scheme was generally beneficial to the vulnerable sections of the population cutting across the regions and States. The study pointed out some gaps and constraints in the scheme. These were brought to the notice of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations who are responsible for the day-to-day implementation of PDS for suitable intervention by them.

(d) to (f) The targets under the RPDS were proposed by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. As per reports received from the State Governments, country level targets were achieved in the case of opening of additional fair price shops, issue of additional ration cards and elimination of bogus cards.

Kala-Azar Cases

454. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some districts of Bihar reeling under Kala-azar;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of deaths by Kala-azar;

(c) whether the Government are aware that medicines for Kala-azar are available in the market on an exorbitant rates which are beyond the reach of the common man; and

(d) if so, the steps being contemplated by the Government to check the spread of this disease and provide the medicines at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Kala-azar cases have been reported from 38 districts of Bihar.

(b) As per the reports received from the State Health authorities, deaths due to Kala-azar in Bihar during the last few years are as under :-

Year	Cases	Deaths
1995	21045	259
1996	25056	674
1997	15948	251
1998 (Upto August)	9482	171

(c) Medicines for treatment of Kala-azar being provided to the State Govts. free of cost by the Central Govt. under the National Kala-azar Control Programme. These medicines are made available to the patients through PHCs/Hospitals free of cost.

(d) The strategy adopted for control of Kala-azar are as under :-

- Supply of anti Kala-azar drug free of cost through the State Governments.
- Interruptions of transmission through vector control by undertaking residual spray of DDT in affected areas.
- Early diagnosis and complete treatment through Primary Health Care System.
- Health education and community participation.

Fake Caste Certificate

455. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of the getting jobs reserved for the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe on the basis of fake caste certificates have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against those persons;

(c) whether a case of appointment and promotion of one N.D.M.C. officer on the basis of fake caste certificate has also come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Information relating to case of appointment made on the basis of fake certificates is not maintained by the Central Government. However,

the specific case referred to in part (c) of the question is being looked into and information in this regard will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Release of Wheat and Rice

456. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to release sufficient wheat and rice in the open market in view of scarcity and high price of these commodities in the market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Government has decided to release upto 40 lakh tonnes of wheat to State Governments for open sale at the rates that have been fixed separately for the four Zones in the country;

The State Governments have been given the choice to release this wheat through the PDS Outlets or through the Roller Flour Mills, Co-operative Agencies and State Government Agencies, or exercise both the options.

The issue prices of FCI for open sale of wheat are as under :-

Name of Zone	Rate per quintal (in Rs.)
North Zone	Rs. 645/-
South Zone	Rs. 716/-
West Zone	Rs. 689/-
East Zone	Rs. 708/-

Government has not yet undertaken sale of rice in the open market.

National Handicapped Welfare Fund

457. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount granted by the union Government under the National Handicapped Welfare Fund to Orissa during the last three years has been fully utilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No funds have been sanctioned to Orissa from National Handicapped Welfare Fund during the last three financial years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Green Cards to People Living Below Poverty Line

458. KUMARI KIM GANGTE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States/UTs have completed the process of issue of green cards to the people living below poverty lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(c) the details of States/UTs which have yet to complete the process; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure issue of ration items regularly to the B.P.L. families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) No specific colour is prescribed for special cards to be issued to the families below poverty line (BPL) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced in June, 1997. The States/Union Territories have either issued special cards or have made suitable endorsement in existing cards by an appropriate stamp in respect of the families identified below poverty line. The State/Union Territory-wise details of ration cards are given in the enclosed statement. Delhi and Lakshadweep have not yet launched the TPDS as the identification of poor and issue of special cards there is still to be completed.

(d) The monthly allocation of PDS commodities including the BPL quota of foodgrains is made to the States/UTs at least two months in advance to maintain regular and smooth supplies. The responsibility of further distribution within the State/Union Territory rests with the State Govt./Union Territory Administration.

Statement

State-wise Number of Ration Cards

States/UT	Ration Cards in (Lakhs)			Reported Upto
	BPL	APL	Total	
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh*	113.02	51.53	164.55	Sept. 98
Arunachal Pradesh	0.78	2.22	30.00	June 98
Assam	19.06	22.68	41.74	Aug. 98