

allocate 3% of the grants under training for the development of information centres at Mandal level as "united funds".

9. Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation may come in a big way supporting the information centres by supplying computer equipment, accessories, peripherals and information resources like CD-ROMs and other soft copies under the existing "non-matching scheme" of the foundation.
10. According to the Action Plan of the IT Task Force, there would be a IT revolution by the year 2002 in the country. Hence, it is imperative to establish the community information resource centres at least experimentally one in each State and Union Territories to begin with, to understand the problems and pitfalls in running such centres using IT as well as in understanding the mechanisms of information management and needs at the mandal or lower levels. They should have internet connectivity besides facilities like Fax, STD/ISD.
11. National Institute of Rural Development is requested to take lead in establishing at least two such centres on an experimental basis under the supervision and guidance of Central on Rural Documentation (CORD).
12. The other centres in different States may be established under the supervision of State Institute of Rural Development (SIRDs) which have linkages with National Institute of Rural Development. This may enable the SIRDs and NIRD to develop these centres on an uniform pattern. Wherever such SIRDs are not available, the assistance of any local Research or Training Institution of standing may be taken. This exercise should be completed in the next twelve months. An evaluation report prepared by NIRD for further necessary action at the appropriate level.
13. The personnel to man the centres (at least one per centre) may be identified locally and trained in handling the new communication facilities by organisations like NIC and NIRD at appropriate levels. A working manual may be prepared by NIC and NIRD for the day to day functioning of these information

centres. This may be made available in the regional languages for the use at the mandal level.

14. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting may, in addition to printed material, also provide information in readily usable format and all its publications in computer compatible form like CD-ROM etc. either free or at minimal cost for the use of village libraries and information resources centres. Ministry of I&B may also put this information on their website.
15. The information resource centres should concentrate in obtaining literature in the local languages with the help of the resources of the organisations providing such literature like National Book Trust, National Literacy Mission, DAVP, Publications Division, DPEP, Yuvak Kendras, Mahila organisations, besides having linkages with State level institutions, and universities in the region.

[Translation]

PDS Beneficiaries

*195. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI ADITYANATH:

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

(a) the number of card-holders beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System living below poverty line throughout the country as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the amount of subsidy being provided by the Government on foodgrains, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) (a) The State-wise number of families living below poverty line issued cards throughout the country under the Targeted Public Distribution System as on date as reported by the States/ Union Territories are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The details of the amount of subsidy being provided by the Government of India are not maintained State-wise.

Statement*Number of Ration Cards for BPL Families (BPL Cards) for State/UTs*

State/UT	Ration Cards (In Lakhs)	Reported As on
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	113.02	Nov. 98
Arunachal Pradesh	0.78	Sept. 98
Assam	18.72	Dec. 98
Bihar	84.26	Nov. 97
Goa	0.07	Dec. 98
Gujarat	33.62	Jun. 98
Haryana	5.62	Dec. 98
Himachal Pradesh	2.84	May 98
Jammu & Kashmir	4.96	Feb. 98
Karnataka	62.55	Dec. 98
Kerala	20.60	Dec. 98
Madhya Pradesh	42.68	Dec 98
Maharashtra	57.70	Aug 98
Manipur	1.13	Jun 97
Meghalaya	0.97	Mar 97

1	2	3
Mizoram	N.A.	Feb 97
Nagaland	0.96	Nov 97
Orissa	42.21	Aug 98
Punjab	4.88	July 98
Rajasthan	21.16	Sept 98
Sikkim	N.A.	Oct 97
Tamilnadu	55.00	Dec 98
Tripura	2.31	May 98
Uttar Pradesh	95.48	July 98
West Bengal	47.07	April 98
Andaman & Nicobar	0.12	Oct 98
Chandigarh	0.00	Nov 98
D&N Haveli	0.17	Dec 98
Daman & Diu	0.02	Feb 98
Delhi*	—	Dec 96
Lakshadweep*	—	Nov 98
Pondicherry	0.89	Nov 98
Total	719.79	

N.A.— Not Available

*Delhi and Lakshadweep Have not Implemented TDPS as Identification of BPL Families and Issue of Special Cards to them has not been completed there.