Krihsi Bhavan, New Delhi,
Dated 20th September, 2016

To

Shri Sushil Kambampati,
White Rann Content & Services,
Q9APXJ4R-6th Floor, JMD Regent Square,
MG Road Gurgaon,
Haryana-122002.

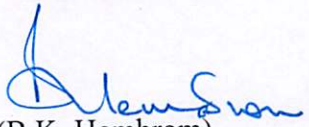Subject:-Information under the Right to Information Act, 2005- regarding.

Sir,

Please refer to your online RTI application dated 19.04.2017 received in the Computerisation Cell vide NFSA Section endorsement letter No.1-58/2017-NFSA dated 22.08.2017 on the subject mentioned above and to say that Computerisation Cell is implementing a Scheme on "End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations" in collaboration with all the States/UTs. A brief note on implementation of the scheme is enclosed.

2.   As far as this reply is concerned, an appeal in the matter shall lie with Shri D.K. Gupta, Director (PD) being Appellate Authority for the purpose of RTI Act, 2005 (Room No.275, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi, Tel. No.011-23070429).

Yours faithfully,

(B.K. Hembrom)
Under Secretary (Comp.)/CPIO

Encl:-As above.

Copy for information:-

(i)   US (NFSA), D/o Food & PD w.r.t . NFSA Section's endorsement letter No.1-58/2017-NFSA (E.338689) dated 22.08.2017.

(ii)   US (ICT), D/o Food & PD.

NOTE ON END-TO-END COMPUTERISATION OF TPDS OPERATIONS

As part of efforts being made to improve the distribution of foodgrains across the country, the Department of Food and Public Distribution, in association with all States & UTs, is implementing a Plan Scheme on End-to-end Computerisation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations on cost sharing basis. The costs are being shared on 90:10 basis in respect of North Eastern States and on 50:50 basis with other States/UTs.

2.   Following are the key activities and their expected outcomes under Component-I of the scheme:

   i.   Digitization of Beneficiary Database– Enable correct identification of beneficiaries; removal of bogus cards and better targeting of food subsidies
   ii. Online Allocation of foodgrains– System generated allocation of foodgrains to bring transparency in allocation of foodgrains, up to the Fair Price Shops level.
   iii. Computerisation of Supply Chain Management– Timely availability of foodgrains to intended beneficiaries at FPS; check leakages/diversion
   iv. Grievance Redressal Mechanism and Transparency Portals– Introduce transparency & public accountability in the implementation of TPDS through transparency portals, online grievance registration and toll free helpline numbers.

3.   The Scheme was approved by the CCEA in October 2012. The Department conveyed administrative approval for the scheme to all States/UTs on 10.12.2012. The Scheme has been declared as a Mission Mode Project (MMP) by the Government. National Informatics Centre (NIC) is the Technical Partner under the scheme. Total project cost approved by CCEA is Rs. 884.07 Crore, which includes Government of India's share of Rs. 489.37 Crore and States/UTs share of Rs. 394.70 Crore. So far, financial assistance of Rs. 377.44 Crore has been released to 30 States/UTs, NIC, etc. During financial years 2012-13 (Rs.41.69 crore), 2013-14 (Rs.187.05 crore), 2014-15 (Rs. 34.35 crore), 2015-16 (Rs. 59.85 crore) 2016-17 (Rs. 53.64 Crore) and 2017-18 (Rs. 0.86 lakh). As regards remaining 5 States/UTs, Gujarat and Karnataka didn't seek central financial assistance for Component-I of the scheme. State Govt. Haryana and UT of Chandigarh were provided funds under the pilot scheme which have been subsumed in the Plan Scheme. Recently, UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands has requested for central financial assistance. Further funds would be provided to States/UTs only after they exhaust the funds already released to them and they furnish Utilization Certificate of the same.

4.   A National Transparency Portal http://pdsportal.nic.in has been developed by NIC through which citizens may access the Portals of the respective State/UT Food and Civil Supplies Departments. Based on the reports received from States/UTs and NIC, the activity-wise progress in States/UTs is summarized as below:-

   i.   Digitization of ration cards under NFSA has been completed in all States/UTs.
   ii. Ration card details are available on transparency portal of all States/UTs.
   iii. Online Allocation has been implemented in 30 States/UTs.
   iv. Supply-chain has been computerised in 20 States/UTs.
   v.   Transparency portal are implemented in allStates/UTs.
   vi. Grievance redressal facilities (Online Grievance Registration System / Toll-free helpline numbers (1967/1800-series) are available in all States/UTs

5.   Further, to identify and weed-out duplicate/ineligible beneficiaries, and to enable rightful targeting of food subsidies, all States/UTs have been requested to seed Aadhaar numbers in Ration Card database. At present overall seeding stands at 79.96% at the National level. Also, in pursuance of the provisions in the Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act 2016 this Department has notified the use of Aadhaar to receive subsidised foodgrains or Cash transfer of food subsidy under NFSA, on 8th February 2017.

6.   As an outcome of digitization of RC/beneficiary records, de-duplication due to Aadhaar seeding, transfer / migration / deaths, change in economic status of beneficiaries, *and during the run*-up to and implementation of NFSA, a total of 2.48 Crore ration cards have been deleted/cancelled in 29 States/UTs. Based on this the Government has been able to achieve an estimated 'Rightful Targeting of Food Subsidies' of about Rs. 15,300 Crore per annum.