

## Govt to roll out fertiliser DBT in 5 more states in Dec

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**THE GOVERNMENT WILL** introduce the direct benefit transfer (DBT) of fertiliser subsidies in five more states, including Punjab, next month, a senior official with the fertiliser ministry said. Last month, the DBT facility for fertiliser subsidies was rolled out in 14 states and Union Territories (UTs). The government bears about ₹70,000 crore annually as fertiliser subsidy.

“Fertiliser DBT is working smoothly in 14 states. We have shortlisted five big states – Punjab, Haryana, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh – that will go live in December,” joint secretary at the ministry Dharam Pal said.

The states and UTs where the DBT facility has been rolled out are: Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Goa, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Assam, Mizoram, Daman and Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Andamana & Nicobar, Delhi and Puducherry. For the remaining 12 states, the DBT scheme will be rolled out in January 2018.