

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 888
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22nd DECEMBER, 2017

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO POOR PEOPLE

888. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the poor are not getting foodgrains because of non-submission of their Aadhaar number due to which they are becoming victim of malnutrition;
- (b) the number of cases came to light where the supply of foodgrains could not reach the poor in last three years;
- (c) the steps taken to implement the present system of foodgrains' supply effectively in last three years; and
- (d) the obstacles coming in the way of providing facilities of food security to the poor without Aadhaar and details of steps taken to address it?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a): As per provisions of Notification issued by this Department on dated 8/2/17 [as amended from time to time], eligible beneficiaries under National Food Security Act [NFSA], 2013 who do not possess Aadhaar, are required to make application for Aadhaar enrolment by giving their name, address, mobile number with Ration Card number and other details with their fair price shop owners or through the web portal provided for the purpose by State/UT. In the light of the provisions of the above notification, benefits under NFSA cannot be denied by State/UT Governments for the only reasons that eligible beneficiaries do not possess Aadhaar.

(b): There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including non distribution of foodgrains to beneficiaries, leakages, diversion, issuance of ration cards etc. in some States/UTs. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. The number of such complaints received during last three years are as under:

| Years | No of complaints |
|---|------------------|
| 2017 [Upto 15 th , December, 2017] | 1177 |
| 2016 | 1106 |
| 2015 | 818 |

(c): Streamlining and upgradation of TPDS is a continuous process. Department of Food & Public Distribution is implementing a Scheme on 'End-to-End Computerisation of TPDS Operations' on cost sharing basis with the States/UTs. The Scheme comprises of activities namely, digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, computerisation of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms and installation of e PoS devices at Fair Price Shops and issuance of foodgrains through biometric authentication.

Under the above scheme, 100 % digitisation of Ration Cards has been done, 31 States/UTs have implemented online allocation of Foodgrains and 20 States/UTs have implemented computerisation of supply chain management.

(d): State/UT Governments have been instructed vide letter no 1(8)/2017-PD.II of dated 24/10/17 to strictly comply with the provisions of the Notification dated 8/2/17 [as amended from time to time].

The said Notification has clear provisions for distribution of the benefits of subsidized foodgrains/cash transfer of food subsidy under NFSA to those eligible beneficiaries who do not possess Aadhaar number. The letter also covers the issue arising out of failure of biometric authentication at PoS and the method to distribute foodgrains in such cases.
