

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1201
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH JULY, 2018

HOME DELIVERY OF SUBSIDIZED FOODGRAINS

1201. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:
SHRI HARIVANSH:

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to ask the State Governments to provide home delivery of highly subsidized foodgrains to the Public Distribution System (PDS) beneficiaries to avoid instances of starvation deaths in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the other reforms which the State Governments have been asked to pursue urgently in order to strengthen the PDS; and
- (d) whether any guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to ensure that there are no starvation deaths because of non-delivery of PDS grains?

A N S W E R

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

(a) to (d) To ensure assured regular supply of subsidized foodgrains to beneficiaries through Public Distribution System (PDS), several reform measures have been undertaken since the inception of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). Government is implementing a scheme on 'End-to-End Computerization of PDS Operations' with an aim to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of PDS and to address challenges of leakages and diversion of foodgrains, fake/bogus ration cards etc. Key components of the scheme are digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries, automation of supply chain management, online grievance redressal and automation of fair price shops (FPSs) by use of electronic point of sale (ePoS) devices.

Government has been regularly issuing advisories/instructions to States/UTs to review their lists of beneficiaries under NFSA, launch special drives to issue ration cards to the weaker sections of the society and ensure supply of foodgrains through PDS to all eligible beneficiaries.

Government has issued instruction to the States/UTs to put in place special dispensation for distribution of foodgrains to beneficiaries who are unable to visit the FPS for reasons such as old age, physical disability, etc. by adopting either Home Delivery of foodgrains through the FPS dealer or Delivery of foodgrains through authorized nominees of such beneficiaries.
