

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 680
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08th FEBRUARY, 2019

MAKING PDS PUBLIC FRIENDLY

680. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that due to inbuilt problems of Public Distribution System (PDS), beneficiaries are still not getting due advantage of the scheme;
- (b) if so, whether Government has any plan to improve and restructure the PDS to make it public friendly, and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) has been implemented in all States/UTs, inter-alia the Act entitles up to 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population, covering nearly two-third of the country's population (about 81.34 Crore persons, as per census 2011), to receive highly subsidized foodgrains through Public Distribution System (PDS) under two categories viz. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH).

The AAY households are entitled to receive 35 Kg of foodgrains per household per month, whereas, the Priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month, at the Central Issue Prices of Rs.1/2/3 per Kg for Coarse-grains/Wheat/Rice respectively.

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To modernize and bring more transparency in the functioning of PDS, the Central Government in association with all State/UT Governments is implementing a scheme on “End-to-End Computerization of Public Distribution System (PDS) Operations” under which digitization of ration cards has been completed in all States/UTs, transparency portals and facility for online grievance redressal/toll-free helpline numbers are implemented in all States/UTs, online allocation of foodgrains up to all Fair Price Shops (FPSs) has been implemented in all States/UTs, except in two UTs which have opted for DBT cash transfer scheme.

Further to identify duplicate/ineligible ration cards/ beneficiaries and to enable ‘rightful targeting of food subsidy’ the available Aadhaar numbers of beneficiaries are also being seeded by the States/UTs with the ration cards. At present, nearly 85.57% ration cards have been seeded with Aadhaar numbers of at least one member of the beneficiary household at national level. Also, more than 3.88 lakh out of 5.33 lakh FPSs have been automated across the country by using electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices.

Besides, a new Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)" is being implemented for achieving national level portability of ration card holders to lift the entitled foodgrains from anywhere in the country.
