

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2001  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2022

**DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS DURING TECHNICAL SNAGS IN PDS**

2001 SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:

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

- (a) the steps being taken to distribute foodgrains to the beneficiaries during technical snags such as failure of network, mismatch of fingerprints, failure to generate OTP etc.;
- (b) whether there is any proposal for Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers to supply foodgrains by inserting Aadhaar numbers in the e-PoS devices;
- (c) the measures being taken regarding viability of FPS dealers and in respect of study report submitted by World Food Programme; and
- (d) the reasons behind dividing the Priority House Hold (PHH) and Special Priority House Hold (SPHH) Beneficiaries into two categories?

**A N S W E R**  
**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND**  
**CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

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(a): In pursuance of the provisions under Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, this Department has issued a notification dated 08/02/2017 (as amended from time to time). As per the latest amendment to the said notification, the timeline given to States/UTs for linking of Aadhaar numbers of beneficiaries with all ration cards has been extended up to 31.03.2023. Further, this Department has advised all States/UTs to ensure that no genuine beneficiaries/households shall be denied their entitled foodgrains under National Food Security Act (NFSA), only on the ground of not possessing an Aadhaar number, or due to any technical failure of ePoS device, including failure of biometric/Aadhaar authentication of beneficiary owing to network/connectivity/linking issues etc.

(b): At present, nearly, 5.33 Lakh out of total 5.34 Lakh FPSs in the country have been automated by installing ePoS devices for transparent distribution of subsidized foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries. There is provision in ePoS devices for inserting Aadhaar number or Ration Card number of eligible beneficiaries for distribution of foodgrains under NFSA.

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(c): The State/UT Governments are empowered to allow sale of commodities other than the foodgrains at the FPS to improve the viability of Fair Price Shop operations. As part of efforts to improve the viability of FPSs, Government of India has taken various initiatives and requested all State/UT Governments to implement additional services at the FPSs, including Common Service Centre (CSC) services, banking services through tie-up with banks/corporate Banking Correspondents (BCs), banking and citizen-centric services of India Post Payment Bank (IPPB), retail sale of small (5kg) LPG cylinders and sale of other commodities/ general store items etc.

(d): Under NFSA, beneficiaries are covered under only two categories, namely, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households (PHH). Govt. of India has not given any direction to create any other category under NFSA.

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