

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.226
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY 2023

BENEFICIARY UNDER PDS SYSTEM

226 SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS:

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

- (a) the number of eligible families and Fair Price Shops (FPSs) under Public Distribution System (PDS), the details thereof;
- (b) the strategy being implemented by Government to improve the accuracy and transparency of beneficiary identification to prevent large inclusion and exclusion errors and corruption, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning to inculcate Blockchain technology within the PDS to minimize foodgrain leakage and corruption; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a)& (b): As on 30th June 2023, around 80.10 Crore NFSA beneficiaries [Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)-8.95 Crore & Priority Households (PHH)- 71.15 Crore] are getting benefits of Public Distribution System in the country through 5.45 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in India.

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As per the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Control Order 2015, the review of ration cards/beneficiaries list, identification of ineligible/ duplicate ration cards and inclusion of eligible beneficiaries/households is the responsibility of concerned State/UT Government. States/UTs have been advised to undertake proper verification (including field verification) of each identified case to ensure that ration cards of genuine beneficiaries are not deleted/ suspended. Further, States/UTs regularly issue new ration cards to the eligible households/beneficiaries in place of cancelled ration cards under ceiling limit of the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Accordingly, the concerned State/UT identify the eligible beneficiaries and inform the Central Government for any change in the number of beneficiaries within the ceiling limit of the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

(c)& (d): The use of blockchain technology within the Public Distribution System (PDS) is not under consideration of Central Government, as of now.
