

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2430  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**DIGITIZATION OF PDS**

2430 **SHRI S. KALYANASUNDARAM:**  
**SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:**

Will the Minister of *Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the progress made in the digitization of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the steps taken to remove fake ration cards from the system;
- (b) the measures being adopted to ensure that only eligible beneficiaries are included in welfare schemes like PMGKAY and NFSA; and
- (c) the impact of Aadhaar-based authentication, eKYC verification and e-PoS devices in reducing leakages and ensuring transparency in the PDS?

**A N S W E R**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
**(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)**

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(a): As part of the technology driven Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. Further, due to the digitization of ration cards data in all States/UTs, continuous de-duplication of digital data, permanent migration, deaths, identification of ineligible ration cards, etc. the States/UTs have been able to remove ineligible ration cards from the system.

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(b): As per the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Control Order 2015, the review of ration cards/beneficiaries list, identification of bogus/ineligible/ duplicate ration cards and inclusion of genuine eligible beneficiaries/households is the responsibility of concerned State/UT Government. In this regard, 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. Further, States/UTs continuously issue new ration cards to the genuinely eligible households/beneficiaries in place of cancelled ration cards under ceiling limit of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), to achieve the rightful targeting of subsidised foodgrains.

(c): Under PDS reforms, 99.8% ration cards are seeded with Aadhaar number at national level and almost all FPSs have been automated by installation of e-PoS devices for the distribution of food-grains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric /Aadhaar authentication of PMGKAY beneficiaries. Appox. 98% distribution is done through Aadhaar authentication to curb the leakages and ensuring the transparency in PDS System.

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