

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1955
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2025

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

1955 DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) the measures being taken to curb leakages in the Public Distribution System (PDS) despite the integration of Aadhaar and the use of POS machines;
- (b) whether steps have been taken to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and address persistent inefficiencies in grain distribution, and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which Government plans to ensure that subsidized grains reach the intended beneficiaries without diversion; and
- (d) the reforms being considered to restructure the PDS for better targeting, transparency, and efficiency?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) & (b): At present, 99.8% ration cards are seeded with Aadhaar number at national level. Further, this Department has extended the timeline given to the States/UTs, under the Notification dated 08/02/2017 (as amended from time to time) issued in exercise of Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act 2016, for completing the Aadhaar seeding of ration cards further up to 31.03.2025. Further, at present, 5.41 lakh (99.6%) out of total 5.43 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries under the PDS system.

(c) & (d): As part of the technology driven Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, with the aim to improve the efficiency and reduce leakages in the PDS, the ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Also, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and Urban area of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs. The main objectives of digitalizing the PDS is to improve the efficiency and transparency in the distribution process and to address various challenges such as leakages and diversion of foodgrains.
