

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3406
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2025

E-KYC OF MIGRANT WORKERS

3406 **DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:**

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

- (a) the reasons behind the data gaps and faulty e-KYC implementation that have left migrant workers struggling to access their ration entitlements;
- (b) what actions are being taken to ensure that technological failures do not impede the delivery of essential services to vulnerable populations;
- (c) the measures in place to rectify discrepancies in the system and ensure that all eligible individuals receive their due benefits; and
- (d) the steps being taken to strengthen the digital infrastructure and mechanisms to prevent such issues from recurring, and to enhance the reliability of the public distribution system across the States?

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

(a) to (c): Department of Food and Public Distribution towards ensuring the efficient and effective operations of the Public Distribution System (PDS) has been requesting all the States/UTs to conduct the e-KYC process for all beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. The e-KYC verification is a process to confirm identity of a beneficiary by biometric authentication and then by matching his/her Aadhaar demographic data with ration card details. The process leads to elimination of duplicate and ineligible cardholders thereby creating space for the inclusion of additional eligible & needy beneficiaries within the overall ceiling limit prescribed under the NFSA.

At present, eKYC of around 75.69% of PDS beneficiaries has been completed across the country.

Further, 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. All 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.

(d): The Department has facilitated PDS beneficiaries to complete the e-KYC process using Aadhaar at FPS of his choice any where in the country. This initiative particularly benefits migrant workers who earlier had to go to their home state for the process of e-KYC. At present, it has been successfully implemented in all States/UTs.
