

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.839
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025

FOOD LEAKAGE THROUGH PDS

839 **SHRI SAKET GOKHALE:**

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

- (a) the amount of food leakage through the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country and the amount of food distributed under PDS that does not reach beneficiaries;
- (b) whether the Ministry is aware of any cases where food meant for distribution through numerous Govt. programs through PDS has been diverted to the open market or exported; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by the Ministry to reduce food leakage and to prevent diversion of food in PDS programs to the open market?

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

(a) to (c): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is governed under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 and it is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of food grains within the States/ UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of food grains to the eligible beneficiaries under TPDS, issuance of license to the Fair Price Shop dealers, supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

No specific report of corruption including leakage of foodgrains in the Public Distribution System (PDS) to open market or export has been received. However, as and when such complaints/grievances are received from any source, they are sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

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To minimize the corruption including leakage of the fully subsidized foodgrains under PDS, this Department, in association with all States/UTs has implemented the scheme of 'End to End Computerization of TPDS Operation' which inter-alia comprised digitization of ration card/beneficiaries' data, installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at all Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of transactions etc. for transparent distribution of foodgrains to all beneficiaries under NFSA.

With the aim to improve the efficiency and reduce leakages in the Public Distribution System (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. Further, for better tracking of foodgrains distribution, nearly 5.41 Lakh (99.6%) out of total 5.43 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries under PDS.
