

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.840
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025

DIGITIZATION OF PDS

840 **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 system?

A N S W E R

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

(a) to (c): 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. As an outcome of the use of technology in TPDS operations since 2013, i.e., digitization of ration cards/beneficiary databases, Aadhaar seeding, de-duplication process, identification of duplicates, ineligible records, deaths, permanent migration of beneficiaries, etc. all States/UTs have been able to weed-out approx. 5.87 crore ration cards between 2013 to 2024 in order to achieve rightful targeting under PMGKAY/NFSA.

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.
