

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 170  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2025**

**DELAY IN PMGKAY AND NFSA FOOD GRAIN DISTRIBUTION**

**\*170 SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:**

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

- (a): whether Government is aware of reports regarding delays and irregularities in the distribution of free food grains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and the National Food Security Act (NFSA), particularly in rural and tribal regions;
- (b): the number of instances where ration delivery timelines were missed and the steps taken to ensure timely distribution;
- (c): whether exclusion of genuine beneficiaries has occurred due to Aadhaar-linking issues or faulty biometric authentication; and
- (d): the total number of ghost beneficiaries identified and action taken against officials responsible for such lapses?

**A N S W E R**  
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND  
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
**(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)**

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(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. \*170 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 05.08.2025 IN THE RAJYA SABHA**

(a) to (b): 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.

(c): No, there is no exclusion of genuine beneficiaries due to Aadhaar-linking issues or faulty biometric authentication. More than 98% distribution of food grains in the country is done by biometric authentication through aadhaar. Rest of the distribution is being done through offline mode where there are network related issues. In addition to fingerprint based biometric scanners, all States/UTs have also been advised to integrate the IRIS-based biometric scanners with ePoS device. Alternatively, Aadhaar-OTP or PDS-OTP may also be used to authenticate the beneficiaries. In the event of biometric authentication failure or due to failure of ePoS device/ network connectivity failure/ or any other technical issues, the States/UTs have been advised no-denial of foodgrains to genuine beneficiaries.

(d): 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 in order to achieve rightful targeting.

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