

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1797
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH AUGUST, 2025

SMART-PDS AND MEASURES TO CURB CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

1797 SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:

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

- (a): whether Government is implementing the SMART Public Distribution System (PDS) across the country;
- (b): if so, the key features, budget outlay, implementation period, and cost-sharing pattern with States/UTs;
- (c): the specific PDS operations that are covered and the manner in which SMART-PDS improves upon the existing system;
- (d): the measures taken in the past five years to curb corruption and embezzlement in the PDS; and
- (e): the actions taken against officials involved in diversion of foodgrains

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 is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) – Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS)” in all States/UTs during the period of 3 years (April 2023 to March 2026) with total outlay of Rs.349.9 Crore. The cost sharing between Centre and States would be on 90:10 basis for North-Eastern States and Hilly States, 100:00 for UTs (except J&K) whereas for the other States/UTs costs will be shared on 60:40 basis. Accordingly, share of Government of India and State Governments/UT Administrations are estimated at Rs.286.82 crore and Rs.63.07 crore respectively.

The SMART-PDS scheme envisages to strengthen the technology infrastructure in Public Distribution System (PDS) to lead the technology driven reforms and transformative change in the entire PDS ecosystem covering NFSA and State schemes. Thus, SMART-PDS is launched to

sustain the Information Technology-led Reforms to be brought in the functioning of PDS Operations by overcoming the state level technological limitations of PDS operations in all States/UTs in respect of IT Hardware, Software and to institutionalize an integrated Central System covering all PDS related operations across all States/UTs. Under the Scheme, four modules viz. (i) Food Grains Procurement, (ii) Supply Chain Management/ Allocation of Grains, (iii) Ration Cards Management System & Fair Price Shop Management and (iv) Biometric Based Grains Distribution Module (eKYC) are being developed.

(d) to (e): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/ Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/ UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS, issuance of license to Fair Price Shop dealers, supervision over and monitoring of functioning of FPSs etc. rest with the concerned State/ UT Governments.

Helpline number 1967/1800-State series number is operational in all the States/ UTs for contacting and redressal of the complaints in Public Distribution System and filing any type of complaints by the intended beneficiaries. As and when complaints, including corruption and embezzlement in the PDS, are received in this Department from any source, they are sent to State/ UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

An offence committed in violation of the provisions of TPDS (Control) Order, 2015 is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, the Order empowers State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders.
