

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1802
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH AUGUST, 2025

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING
PROGRAMME FOR FPS**

1802 DR. DINESH SHARMA:
SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:
SHRI SUBHASH BARALA:
SHRI MADAN RATHORE:

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

- (a): whether the Ministry has taken any initiative to develop the entrepreneurial skills of Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers across the country;
- (b): if so, the number of dealers benefited from this program so far, and the number of dealers likely to benefit from it in future, State-wise, including Jharkhand; and
- (c): the eligibility criteria fixed for FPS dealers to participate in this Capacity-Building Programme?

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

(a): The Department of Food & Public Distribution (DoF&PD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), which is under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). This collaboration is aimed at addressing the skill development challenges faced by Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers, focusing particularly on digital literacy, financial literacy, and entrepreneurial skills necessary to adapt to market changes and explore new business opportunities.

(b): So far 325 (approx.) FPS dealers across nine states namely Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & Bihar have been trained under this initiative.

States would be encouraged to participate in this initiative to any number they deem desired.

(c): The eligibility criteria for FPS dealers to participate in the Capacity-Building Programme is their willingness in diversifying their operations beyond the core Public Distribution System (PDS) activities. This programme is intended for those dealers who wish to enhance their skills and explore additional business opportunities apart from the distribution of PDS commodities.
