

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2604
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH AUGUST, 2025

SMART PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

2604 **SHRI BRIJ LAL:**
DR. DINESH SHARMA:

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

- (a): the details of the Smart Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS) being implemented across the country;
- (b): the details of the budget outlay and implementation period for SMART-PDS;
- (c): the functions of the Public Distribution System (PDS) which have been included under SMART-PDS;
- (d): the major advantages of SMART-PDS as compared to the current system in place;
- (e): the problems being addressed through SMART-PDS; and
- (f): the main features of this system and the details of the cost sharing pattern fixed between the States/UTs and the Central Government?

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

(a) & (b): 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 Budget of Rs.349.9 Crore. Share of Government of India and State Governments/UT Administrations are Rs.286.82 crore and Rs.63.07 crore respectively.

(c) to (f): 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. It consists of 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 & includes functions of old PDS application

The **SMART-PDS (Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System)** is designed to address systemic challenges in the existing PDS by establishing a unified, technology-driven ecosystem. It targets problems of old systems such as fragmented IT systems, high infrastructure costs, lack of real-time data, operational inefficiencies, and weak cybersecurity. States and UTs face difficulty sustaining IT initiatives due to limited resources and coordination challenges, while manual processes and ineffective grievance mechanisms further compromise service delivery. SMART-PDS introduces key reforms and advantages:

- **Unified Operations:** Integrates state and central systems into a standardised national platform to streamline operations.
- **Advanced Technology:** Uses scalable microservices architecture, Meghraj 2.0 cloud, and modern tech stacks like React, PostgreSQL, and Docker, ensuring efficiency and cost reduction.
- **Data-Driven Governance:** Enables real-time analytics, dashboards, and inter-departmental data sharing for informed decision-making.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Incorporates Vehicle Tracking Systems (VTS) and electronic workflows to improve supply chain visibility and reduce leakages.
- **Beneficiary-Centric Services:** Enhances portability under ONORC, offers online application and grievance redressal, and introduces biometric authentication.
- **Robust Infrastructure & Security:** Strengthens cyber resilience, disaster recovery, and real-time monitoring through Command Control Centres.
- **Cost Efficiency and Capacity Building:** Optimises resources and enhances Fair Price Shop viability through diversification and institutional support.

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.
