

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2918
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH AUGUST, 2025

MONITORING OF FOOD LEAKAGES IN PDS

2918 **SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether Government monitors and detects leakages in PDS by using technology and independent audits;
- (b) if so, the details of the amount of food that fails to reach the final beneficiaries and is leaked through the system;
- (c) whether Government has received complaints relating to diversion, pilferage or corruption in the PDS during the last three years;
- (d) if so, the number and nature of such complaints received, State/UT-wise and year-wise;
- (e) the action taken by Government to investigate and resolve such complaints; and
- (f) the details of penal or disciplinary action initiated against officials or entities for malpractice under PDS during the said period?

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

(a) to (b): Yes sir, the Government closely monitors distribution of food grains. To bring reforms in the functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and to minimize the leakages and diversion of the highly subsidized foodgrains, this Department under the technology driven in Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, ration cards/ beneficiary's database has been completely digitized in all States/ UTs. Also, 99.7% Ration Cards are seeded with Aadhaar number at national level. Foodgrain distribution is operationalized through e-PoS devices, covering nearly all Fair Price shops in the country. These e-PoS devices enable Aadhaar authentication of beneficiary during distribution process enabling principle of rightful targeting.

More than 98% foodgrain distribution is being done through Aadhaar authentication, reducing leakages to ineligible beneficiaries and ensuring rightful targeting.

(c) to (f): 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. 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 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.

As and when complaints relating to any PDS issues are received from any source, they are sent to State/ UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

If any person contravenes any of the provisions of the Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2015, he/ she shall be liable to punishment under Section 7 of 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.
