

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 166
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2025

SUSTAINABILITY OF FAIR PRICE SHOPS

166 SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:

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

- (a) the State-wise list of Fair Price Shops in the country as on 30th September 2025;
- (b) whether the digitisation of PDS has led to closing down of Fair Price Shops in the country;
- (c) whether Government has taken any step to enhance the financial viability of Fair Price Shops in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 166 FOR ANSWER ON 16th DECEMBER, 2025
REGARDING 'SUSTAINABILITY OF FAIR PRICE SHOPS'**

(a): The State-wise number of Fair Price Shops in the country is at Annexure.

(b) to (d): 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.

Accordingly, under sub-clause (7) of clause 9 of the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, it is the responsibility of the State Government to fix fair price shop owner's margin, and this shall be periodically reviewed for ensuring sustained viability of the fair price shop operations. Thus, the Central Government has no role in fixing the actual rate of fair price shop dealers' margin or payment to the FPS dealers.

The Central Government only provides the assistance to States/UTs for meeting the expenditure towards intra-State movement & handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margin under the NFSA under the provisions of Food Security (Assistance to State Governments) Rules, 2015 that provides for norms of expenditure and pattern of central sharing. The norms of FPS Dealers margin are as per the details given below:

Category of States	Component of FPS margin	Pre-revised norms (Rate in rupee per quintal) (upto 31st March, 2022)	Revised norms (Rate in rupee per quintal) (w.e.f. 1.4.2022)
General Category States/UTs	Transportation & handling	65	70
	FPS Dealers Margin	70	90
	Additional margin	17	21
Special category States/UTs	Transportation & handling	100	105
	FPS Dealers Margin	143	180
	Additional margin	17	26

Special category states includes Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and seven north east states.

The State Governments are free to fix the actual rates, which can be higher than the norms specified in the rules. Central assistance will be limited to the rates specified in the Rules or the actual average rates for the State as a whole, at which the expenditure was actually incurred by the State Government, whichever is lower.

Further, the Department has linked the payment of additional dealer margins to States/UTs with the requirement that ePoS devices be integrated with e-weighing scales. This

measure incentivises States/UTs to adopt the linkage, ensuring that beneficiaries receive the accurately measured quantity of their entitled foodgrains.

As per sub-clause (9) of Clause 9 of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Control Order, 2015, the State Government shall allow sale of commodities other than the foodgrains distributed under the TPDS at the fair price shop to improve the viability of the fair price shop operations.

It has been the endeavor of the Government to improve the financial viability of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) by providing additional business avenues to FPS dealers and enhancing beneficiary experience through the provision of value-added services at FPS. To improve the financial viability of FPSs, Government of India had requested all State/UT Governments to take up initiatives through FPSs such as providing banking services through tie-up with banks/corporate Banking Correspondents, banking and citizen-centric services of India Post Payment Bank (IPPB), Retail selling of small (5kg) LPG cylinders, Sale of other commodities/ general store items etc.

The Department has also partnered with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to enhance the capacity and confidence of Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers by equipping them with essential entrepreneurship and business management skills. Under this collaboration, NIESBUD (an autonomous institute under MSDE) has developed a specialised training programme for FPS dealers covering digital and financial literacy, e-commerce, retail management, and basic nutrition. To date, approximately 325 FPS dealers across nine States—Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar—have undergone this training. As a result, 90 FPS outlets have been converted into Jan Poshan Kendras (JPKs) across five cities: Hyderabad, Ghaziabad, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, and Indore, improving their commercial viability and community outreach. The Department has further requested MSDE to develop an online training module through an e-learning management system to enable skill development for all 5.5 lakh FPS dealers across the country.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF STARRED QUESTION
No. 166 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2025 IN THE RAJYA SABHA**

State-wise FPS shop as on September 2025		
Sr. no.	State/UT	Total Fair Price Shops
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	435
2	Andhra Pradesh	29,792
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,987
4	Assam	35,071
5	Bihar	51,965
6	Chandigarh	-
7	Chhattisgarh	13,982
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	115
9	Delhi	1,979
10	Goa	490
11	Gujarat	16,949
12	Haryana	1,094
13	Himachal Pradesh	5,405
14	Jammu And Kashmir	6,645
15	Jharkhand	30,849
16	Karnataka	21,379
17	Kerala	13,805
18	Ladakh	409
19	Lakshadweep	38
20	Madhya Pradesh	26,016
21	Maharashtra	59,818
22	Manipur	3,010
23	Meghalaya	4,820
24	Mizoram	1,264
25	Nagaland	1,857
26	Odisha	13,926
27	Puducherry	-
28	Punjab	19,836
29	Rajasthan	27,263
30	Sikkim	2,475
31	Tamil Nadu	34,832
32	Telangana	17,264
33	Tripura	2,076
34	Uttarakhand	9,201
35	Uttar Pradesh	79,216
36	West Bengal	20,997
	Total	556,260
