

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 97
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2025

**IMPLEMENTATION OF 'SMART RATION CARD' AND
END-TO-END DIGITIZATION**

97. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH:

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

- (a) the progress made by Government in implementing Smart Ration Cards and end-to-end digitization in order to enhance transparency in the distribution of foodgrains across the country;
- (b) whether Government is implementing any new technological improvements or verification systems to ensure uninterrupted foodgrain supply to migrant workers under the One Nation One Ration Card scheme; and
- (c) whether any new policy initiative has been proposed to strengthen food security through enhancement of storage capacity, development of modern warehousing facilities and reduction of foodgrain losses?

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 (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE
STARRED QUESTION NO. *97 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 09.12.2025 IN THE
RAJYA SABHA REGARDING.**

(a): Department has not taken any initiative for implementation of SMART Ration Cards. However, as part of its digital effort to bring in transparency and accountability, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. Further, 99.9% ration cards are Aadhaar seeded. This system enables beneficiaries to receive their full entitlement simply by having their Ration Card Number or Aadhaar Number entered into the e-POS device at FPS shops, followed by biometric authentication through fingerprint or iris scan. In addition, beneficiaries can fully avail themselves of other digital initiatives such as ONORC, the Mera Ration App, Anna Sahayata, and more.

The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Also, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and Urban area of Dadra & Nagar Haveli which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme). For better tracking of foodgrains distribution, nearly 5.50 Lakh (99.8%) out of total 5.51 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country have been automated by installing e-PoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.

(b): The nationwide portability of ration cards is popularly known as One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) feature is enabled in all 36 States/UTs. Through this technology driven reform, around 80 Crore Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) beneficiaries are empowered to lift their entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice, anywhere in the country, by using their same existing ration card with biometric authentication on an electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device. The family back home can also lift the part of the PMGKAY foodgrains in the home State/UT on the same ration card.

The ONORC facility is automatically available to all eligible PMGKAY beneficiaries without any additional requirement. It has been implemented across all 36 States/UTs enabling seamless portability of ration benefits for all beneficiaries including migrant workers. To date, more than 197 crore portability transactions have been recorded under ONORC covering both inter-State and intra-State.

(c): Policy initiative taken for enhancement of storage capacity, development of modern warehousing

(i) Smart Warehouse Project:-

Department is in the process of converting 150 owned Depots of Food Corporation of India (FCI) to smart warehouses on pilot basis. Besides, all the food grain depots of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) are also covered under smart warehouse project.

Under this project, traditional depots are proposed to be converted in smart warehouses which are equipped with different sensors like smoke sensors, fire sensors & gate opening sensor etc., for monitoring key parameters such as CO₂, phosphine levels, fire hazards, humidity, unauthorized entry and temperature on real time basis.

This initiative is to ensure real-time visibility, timely intervention, data-driven decision-making & standardized operations across all depots contributing to ensure safe, secure, and efficient food grain storage and distribution.

(ii) Depot Darpan Portal

Depot Darpan Portal is a digital platform launched by this Department to enhance the monitoring, transparency and efficiency of food-grain storage depots under PDS.

This Portal uses a composite scoring system, assessing depots on two broad categories: Infrastructure and Operational Parameters. Based on the scores, each depot receives a star rating, which is meant to provide a quick assessment of depot performance. Validation of data is built into the process via 100% supervisory officer verification and some random third-party audits to ensure reliability.

(iii) "Anna Chakra" Tool

DFPD has implemented "Anna Chakra" tool for PDS Supply Chain Optimization. The tool is designed to streamline the PDS supply chain, improving efficiency, cutting carbon emissions, and reducing overall costs while supporting 81 crore vulnerable citizens. Using state-specific algorithms, the system optimizes routes based on warehouse locations, storage capacities, and road distances, achieving a 15 to 50% reduction in transport distances. Early results are encouraging and transportation costs are estimated to be reduced by nearly Rs. 250 crore annually.

"Anna Chakra" Inter-state Route optimization tool has been undertaken to streamline and enhance the interstate movement operations of foodgrains, primarily by rail, undertaken by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). These movements are planned to meet Public Distribution System (PDS) requirements in consuming states while simultaneously managing storage space in procuring or surplus regions. The daily planning and execution of these operations is carried out by FCI using the tool developed for this purpose.

(iv) Creation of modern steel silos for the storage of Wheat:-

With a view to modernize storage of foodgrains and to ramp-up the storage capacity for foodgrains in India, DFPD is undertaking various schemes of steel silo construction for storage of wheat, through FCI.

Steel Silos ensure better grain quality, reduced wastage and improving. For the sector, silos provide higher operational efficiency, faster bulk handling, reduced spoilage, lower labour needs and optimized supply-chain operations, strengthening the long-term storage capacity and enhancing sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

FCI's operational steel-silo capacity has increased to 29.5 LMT, with projects underway to raise it to nearly 90 LMT in coming 2-3 years, marking a major shift from traditional godown-based storage to modern scientific systems.

Efforts taken by department to reduce Storage Loss

- 1) The position of storage losses is reviewed in Monthly Performance Review Meetings (MPR) at HQ level and EDs (Zone)/GMs(R) are instructed to intensify inspections/monitoring of depots showing higher storage & transit losses.

- 2) Covered storage capacity has been augmented to avoid CAP Storage of food grains.
- 3) Periodical prophylactic and curative treatment of food grains stocks is undertaken to keep them free from pests/infestations i.e. to minimize losses due to biotic factors.
- 4) Depots exhibiting high storage losses in a month are inspected at the level of ED (Zones), GM (Regions) and other senior officers.
- 5) Security staff of FCI, Home Guards and other external agencies is being deployed at FCI depots to ensure safety and security of the stock.
- 6) CCTV cameras are installed in owned depots for better surveillance and supervision.
- 7) Physical measures like installation of barbed wire fencing of the boundary walls, provision of street lights for illumination of godowns and proper locking of the sheds are taken to secure the godowns.
- 8) Disciplinary action is being initiated against delinquents wherever abnormal/unjustified losses are reported after due investigation.

Due to the above initiatives, FCI has lost only a very small amount of wheat and rice during transport, and the value of these losses has steadily declined over the years. Storage operations have also shown better management, with gains recorded in last four years. Overall, in last four years since 2021, transit loss has reduced by approximately 41.63%.
