

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2756  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**LINKING MINIMUM NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES TO EACH FPSS**

**2756 SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:**

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

- (a): whether Government has any proposal to direct the State Governments to assess and fix a minimum number of beneficiaries to be linked with each Fair Price Shop (FPS) to ensure its economic viability;
- (b): whether Government is aware that in several States, new Fair Price Shop licences are being issued without assessing the viability of the existing shops;
- (c): if so, the details thereof; and
- (d): whether Government proposes to issue guidelines to States to conduct a viability assessment of existing Fair Price Shops before granting licences for new shops?

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

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(a) to (d): In the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), the operational responsibility including issuance of licenses to Fair Price Shops (FPSs), supervision and monitoring of the functioning of Fair Price Shops etc., rests with the concerned State/UT Government.

As per sub-clause (5) of clause 9 of the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, the licences to the fair price shop dealers shall be issued keeping in view the viability of the fair price shop.

Further, as per sub-clause (6) of clause 9 of the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, the State Government shall ensure that the number of ration card holders attached to a fair price shop are reasonable, the fair price shop is so located that the consumer or ration card holder does not have to face difficulty to reach the fair price shop and that proper coverage is ensured in hilly, desert, tribal and such other areas difficult to access.

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