

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2600 (OIH)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2026

PRICE CONTROL AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

2600. DR. JYOTI NAGNATH WAGHMARE:
(OIH)

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any concrete policy to provide relief to common citizens from inflation in the country and to control the prices of essential commodities;
- (b) the mechanism in place to ensure the quality and transparency of foodgrains being distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (c) the extent of benefits accrued to migrant workers in the country so far under the 'One Nation One Ration Card' (ONORC) scheme; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure the timely delivery of free foodgrains to the last mile beneficiary in rural areas?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI B. L. VERMA)

(a) : Government monitors the daily prices of 41 food commodities submitted by the 579 price monitoring centres across the country. The daily report of prices and indicative price trends are duly analysed for taking appropriate decisions such as release of stocks from the buffer, mandatory disclosure by stockholding entities, imposition of stock limits etc. to stabilise the volatility in prices of essential commodities.

Government keeps a close watch on the production and availability of essential commodities through regular reviews by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC). The Committee reviews, on regular basis, the scenario and the indicative trends in prices of essential agri-horticultural commodities and suggests measures to enhance availability through increased domestic production and rationalisation in export-import policies.

(b) & (d) : Details of the steps taken by Government to ensure transparency and timely delivery of free foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS) are as follows:

- (i) **Digitization & Aadhaar seeding:** Ration cards/beneficiary database 100% digitised in all States/UTs; 99.7% of ration cards Aadhaar-seeded, eliminating bogus/duplicate cards.

- (ii) **Transparency & grievance redressal:** Transparency portals and online grievance redressal/toll-free helplines operational in all States/UTs.
 - (iii) **Online allocation & supply chain computerisation:** Online allocation implemented in all States/UTs; supply chain computerised in 31 States/UTs (except Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban Dadra & Nagar Haveli, which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer).
 - (iv) **ePoS-based Aadhaar authentication at FPS level:** 5.50 lakh (99.8%) of 5.51 lakh Fair Price Shops automated with ePoS devices, ensuring biometric authentication of beneficiaries at the point of distribution and curbing diversion.
 - (v) **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC):** Nationwide portability implemented across all 36 States/UTs, covering all PMGKAY beneficiaries; over 221 crore portability transactions recorded to date, reducing exclusion and duplicate entitlement claims.
 - (vi) **Rightful Targeting (RT):** A dedicated de-duplication and beneficiary-verification exercise using Aadhaar/PDS data analytics has led to identification and deletion of ineligible/duplicate beneficiaries, with 5.95 crore flagged beneficiaries (excluding landholding cases) and 2.35 crore deleted beneficiaries.
 - (vii) **SMART-PDS reform initiative:** Being implemented with modules for Ration Card Management, Distribution, Supply Chain and Grievance Redressal to further standardise and digitally integrate State-level TPDS operations.
 - (viii) **NIRMAL & SAKSHAM:** New initiatives under the SARTHAK PDS Umbrella Scheme (2026–31) aimed at strengthening data architecture/analytics (NIRMAL) and real-time data integration (including VLTS) from Procurement of food grains to Distribution to the beneficiaries (Saksham).
- (c) : One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) has been implemented across all 36 States/UTs, covering 100% PMGKAY beneficiaries. Since inception of ONORC, over 221 crore portability transactions have been recorded, enabling PMGKAY beneficiaries, including migrant workers, to seamlessly access their foodgrain entitlements anywhere in the country.
