

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 999
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JULY, 2026

UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS

999 SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:

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

- (a) whether Government has successfully ensured uninterrupted supply of subsidized foodgrains to beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) across all States and Union Territories;
- (b) the steps taken during 2025-26 for strengthening foodgrain procurement, scientific storage and expansion of modern silos to reduce wastage;
- (c) whether the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) initiative has improved portability, transparency and access to foodgrains for migrant workers and other beneficiaries; and
- (d) the details of digital reforms, including Aadhaar-based authentication and end-to-end computerisation, introduced by Government to make the Public Distribution System more efficient and accountable?

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): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is being successfully implemented in all the States/UTs and free of cost foodgrains are being distributed to identified beneficiaries.
 - (b): To enhance transparency, accuracy and uniformity in the procurement process, a mobile application for Joint Physical Verification (JPV) and the online module for processing requests for extension of the milling/CMR delivery period have been developed during KMS 2025-26 .

The grading of Procurement Centres (PCs) is conducted nationwide to enhance the infrastructure, facilities, and services at PCs for the convenience of farmers and to improve the efficiency of the procurement process. This initiative utilizes the Procurement Centres Smart-Assessment Portal (PCSAP), an online digital platform developed to assist states in evaluating and upgrading PC facilities by assessing the physical infrastructure, facilities, and equipment available at the PCs. The provision for AI-based screening of evidences uploaded by Procurement Centres has now been implemented on PCSAP to ensure improved infrastructure and service delivery for convenience of farmers.

The Government has strengthened scientific foodgrain storage through key digital initiatives like the Smart Warehouse Project and the Depot Darpan Portal. Under the Smart Warehouse Project, traditional depots are being upgraded with real-time sensors that monitor parameters such as CO₂, phosphine, humidity, temperature, fire hazards, and unauthorised entry. The Depot Darpan Portal serves as a unified digital platform across all owned and hired FCI warehouses, utilising geo-tagged data and a composite scoring system supported by 100% supervisory verification to grade and evaluate depot infrastructure and operational efficiency.

To reduce wastage and improve operational efficiency, the Government is expanding modern, highly automated steel silo storage with bulk handling capabilities. Demonstrating this commitment to modernisation, silos with a total capacity of 39.00 LMT have already been completed across 76 locations.

(c): Through the technology-driven reform of One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), approximately 80 Crore 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 existing ration card with biometric authentication on an electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device. As on date, more than 221 Crore portability transactions (including migrant labourers) have been recorded under ONORC.

(d): The following digital reforms have been taken to make the Public Distribution System more efficient and accountable –

i. Digitisation & Aadhaar seeding: Ration cards/beneficiary database 100% digitised in all States/UTs; 99.7% of ration cards Aadhaar-seeded, eliminating ineligible/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. 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 Cr flagged beneficiaries (excluding landholding cases) and 2.35 Cr deleted beneficiaries.

vi. 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).
