

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 617  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017

MONEY SAVED DUE TO BIOMETRIC AUTHENTICATION

617. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:  
SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI):

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has saved money with its implementation of Aadhaar based biometric authentication of beneficiaries of Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details of the savings since the implementation of the Aadhaar based biometric authentication;

(c) whether the State Governments have also saved substantial amount in Public Distribution System (PDS) by linking Aadhaar with ration cards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount saved by them in the last two years and the manner in which the saved amount will be utilised?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

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(a) to (d): Under National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013, ceiling limit of beneficiaries for each state/ UT has been fixed. Inclusion/exclusion criteria of beneficiaries is decided and notified by concerned State/UT.

The purpose of Aadhaar based biometric authentication of beneficiaries is to correctly identify the eligible beneficiaries under NFSA to receive the subsidised foodgrains or cash transfers of food subsidy as per their entitlements. Hence, Aadhaar based biometric authentication facilitates rightful targeting of beneficiaries.

As per information received from States/UTs, Aadhaar based de-duplication of ration cards/beneficiaries and measures like digitization of records, detection of in-eligible households/beneficiaries under NFSA, transfers/migration/change in the economic status of households, death(s) etc. have resulted in the deletion of about 2.75 Crore ration cards by the State/UT Governments during the years 2013 to 2017. Against deleted ration cards, the State/UT Governments have issued new ration cards to the eligible beneficiaries/households under NFSA. Due to this, Government is able to achieve an estimated 'Rightful Targeting of Food Subsidy' of about Rs.17,500 Crore per annum.

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