

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5075

TO BE ANSWERED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018

INITIATIVES TO STOP IRREGULARITIES IN  
FAIR PRICE SHOPS

5075. SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA:

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 taken any new initiative to stop the irregularities in Government fair price foodgrain shops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the said initiatives have yielded the desired results and if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

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

(a) to (c): With an aim to bring reforms in the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) and Fair Price Shops (FPSs), Government is implementing a scheme on 'End-to-End Computerization of PDS Operations' in collaboration with all States/UTs. The scheme comprises digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms in all States/UTs. The Scheme also includes automation of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) by installation of electronic Point of Sale (e-PoS) devices at FPSs for biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries, electronic capturing of sale transactions at FPSs, etc. At present, Digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries has been completed in all States/UTs and 2.97 lakh out of 5.27 lakh FPSs have ePoS devices across the country. Further, to identify and weed out duplicate/ ineligible beneficiaries from PDS, and to enable rightful targeting of food subsidies – States/UTs have been asked to seed available Aadhaar numbers of eligible beneficiaries/ households in their ration cards. At present, about 82% ration cards under NFSA at the national level have been seeded with Aadhaar numbers of at least one member of the household.

These initiatives along with the institutional mechanism for the monitoring and grievance redressal envisaged under National Food Security Act, 2013, that includes Vigilance Committees, District Grievance Redressal Officers and State Food Commission have helped in making the system more efficient and transparent.

A new central sector scheme – Integrated Management of PDS (IM-PDS) has been approved for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 for further strengthening of the PDS.