

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 329
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05 FEBRUARY, 2019

DIGITAL PAYMENT SYSTEM IN PDS

329. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

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

- (a) whether digital payment system has been successfully implemented in Public Distribution System (PDS) shops across the country;
- (b) the details of the number of shops and fertilizer depots which have been provided with Point of Sale machines; and
- (c) the details of the impact of introduction of digital payment mechanism in PDS shops?

A N S W E R

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

(a) to (c): To modernise the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) operations and to ensure transparent distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries, the Department in association with all States/UTs, as part of the End-to-End Computerization of PDS Operations scheme is also installing the electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices in all FPSs (except Chandigarh and Puducherry UTs) for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of sale transactions at FPSs.

Since these devices are able to perform Aadhaar based authentication of beneficiaries, the same devices can be leveraged to enable Aadhaar based digital/cashless payments at the FPSs, with the help of additional software/application integration with ePoS application. However, States/UTs have to upgrade the existing ePoS software/application to enable the digital/cashless transactions through ePoS devices.

As per reports available from States/UTs, out of nearly 5.33 Lakh FPSs in the country, about 3.88 Lakh FPSs have been automated using ePoS devices, so far. However, facility for digital/cashless payments have been enabled in approx. 51,000 FPSs. Further, instructions for the promotion of digital/cashless transactions in all FPSs have been issued to all States/UTs. During the initial period, more than 40 lakh cashless transactions were recorded on monthly basis, which has now come down to less than 1 lakh monthly transactions. Additionally 2,22,806 fertilizer retail points across all States/UTs have been installed with PoS devices.
