

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1042
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2023**

INCREASING RATION SHOPS

1042. SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:

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 is planning to increase the number of ration shops in the country for easy food distribution under National Food Security Act;
- (b) if so, the issues that are being faced in the implementation of the scheme and the solutions to these difficulties;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to address the demands of the ration dealers; and
- (d) the manner in which the Government is planning to provide all foodgrains at the same price everywhere in the country?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a) to (c): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibility including issuance of licenses to Fair Price Shops (FPSs), supervision and monitoring of the functioning of Fair Price Shops etc., rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

As per Clause 9(9) of the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, the State Government may allow sale of commodities other than the foodgrains distributed under the TPDS at the fair price shops to improve the viability of the fair price shop operations. The Government of India has taken suo moto action towards transformation of FPSs in order to increase financial viability of FPSs. To improve the financial viability of the FPSs, the States/UTs have been empowered to collaborate with various service providers to provide Common Service Centre (CSC) services, banking/business correspondent services through India Post payments Bank (IPPB)/Department of Posts (DoP), and the sale of non-PDS, commodities, among others as per local demand and requirements.

Further, Government of India has enhanced the norms of margin payable to FPS dealers with effect from April, 2022 as per the details given below:

Category of States	Basic margin	Additional margin for sale through point-of-sale device	Central share (Percentage)
General	90	21	50
Special*	180	26	75

*Note: Special category States include 8 States of North East including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

(d): The Central Government, in order to remove the financial burden of the poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the Act, is providing food grains free of cost to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), for a period of one year beginning from 1st January 2023. Thus, foodgrains are free across the country, which is uniform for all.
