

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.241
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2023**

COMPUTERIZATION OF PDS SHOPS

***241. SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:**

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

- (a) the details of current status of digitalization under Public Distribution System (PDS) Scheme;**
- (b) the number of PDS shops which have been computerised across the country including the States of Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andaman & Nicobar Islands;**
- (c) whether any time limit has been fixed for completion of computerisation of PDS across the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the current status of linking Ration Card with Aadhaar Card across the country and the response of all the States/UTs thereto;**
- (e) whether the Government has received any proposal from some of the States to include more products under PDS and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and**
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government to check malpractices in Public Distribution System?**

**A N S W E R
MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD
& PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND TEXTILES
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 241 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2023 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (f): As part of the technology driven Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs, transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh and Puducherry which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs. So far, nearly 5.41 Lakh out of total 5.43 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country (including the States of Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andaman & Nicobar Islands) have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.

The Department had earlier implemented One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan in August 2019 with 4 states and by the end of June 2022 ONORC was operational across all 36 States/UTs of the country. Since its inception around 124 Crore portability transactions have been recorded under the ONORC plan, which includes both inter-State and intra-State transactions ensuring the food security of around 80 Crore beneficiaries in the country.

Further, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) – “Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS)” is under implementation to continue and sustain the systematic information technology-led reforms brought in the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) operations by overcoming the State level technological limitations with respect to Server, Software, leveraging of cloud infrastructure and institutionalizing an integrated Central System covering all PDS related operations across the country.

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Presently, 99.8% ration cards are seeded with Aadhaar number at national level. This Department has extended the timeline given to the States/UTs, under the Notification dated 08/02/2017 (as amended from time to time) issued in exercise of Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act 2016, for completing the Aadhaar seeding of ration cards up to 31/03/2024. Until then, all States/UTs have been advised that no genuine beneficiary/household shall be deleted from the list of eligible ration cards/ beneficiaries and shall not be denied their entitled quota of foodgrains under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) only for want of Aadhaar number or only on the ground of not possessing an Aadhaar number, failure of biometric authentication due to network/ connectivity/ linking issues or any other technical reasons etc. Statement showing State/UT wise total number Aadhaar seeded Ration Cards and Fair Price Shops (FPSs) Operational with ePoS devices is at Annexure

Further, as per Clause 9(9) of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Control Order, 2015, It is stated that State/UT Governments shall allow sale of commodities other than the foodgrains distributed under the TPDS at the FPS to improve the viability of the FPS operations. Additionally, States/UTs have been advised that FPS owners may be encouraged to sell non-PDS items through PDS outlets for an extra income. States/UTs may also explore the possibility for empanelment of suppliers to provide other products such as Khadi/Ayush products/MSME products through FPSs.

Further, for ensuring transparency and proper functioning of the TPDS and accountability of the functionaries in such system, every State Government sets up Vigilance Committees as specified in the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, made under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, as amended from time to time, at the State, District, Block and fair price shop levels consisting of such persons, as may be prescribed by the State Government giving due representation to the local authorities, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, women and destitute persons or persons with disability. The Vigilance Committees shall perform the following functions, namely:—

- (a) regularly supervise the implementation of all schemes under this Act;
- (b) inform the District Grievance Redressal Officer, in writing, of any violation of the provisions of this Act; and
- (c) inform the District Grievance Redressal Officer, in writing, of any malpractice or misappropriation of funds found by it.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 241 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2023 IN THE LOK SABHA.

Statement showing State/UT wise total number Aadhaar seeded Ration Cards and Fair Price Shops (FPSs) Operational with ePoS devices

S. N.	State/UT	Total Ration Card in Central System	Total Ration Cards Seeded with Aadhaar	% Seeding of Ration Cards	Total Fair Price Shops	Operational with ePOS devices	% FPS Automation
1	A&N Islands	17,183	17,183	100%	416	416	100%
2	Andhra Pradesh	90,34,482	90,34,482	100%	29,791	29,791	100%
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,86,417	1,50,284	81%	1,680	1,680	100%
4	Assam	54,40,807	54,34,128	100%	34,300	34,286	100%
5	Bihar	1,91,78,001	1,90,88,201	100%	50,951	50,951	100%
6	Chandigarh	74,726	74,409	100%	NA	NA	NA
7	Chhattisgarh	53,67,521	53,65,323	100%	13,675	13,675	100%
8	DNH and D&D	58,075	58,075	100%	114	114	100%
9	Delhi	17,83,129	17,83,129	100%	1,993	1,993	100%
10	Goa	1,43,899	1,43,514	100%	452	452	100%
11	Gujarat	77,23,559	77,12,270	100%	16,949	16,949	100%
12	Haryana	44,55,037	44,55,037	100%	9,434	9,434	100%
13	Himachal Pradesh	7,61,485	7,61,485	100%	5,219	5,155	99%
14	J&K	16,61,875	16,61,855	100%	6,737	6,737	100%
15	Jharkhand	60,87,625	59,96,216	98%	25,228	25,228	100%
16	Karnataka	1,14,52,951	1,14,52,951	100%	20,403	20,325	100%
17	Kerala	41,37,626	41,35,684	100%	13,913	13,905	100%
18	Ladakh	29,312	29,026	99%	404	404	100%
19	Lakshadweep	5,381	5,377	100%	39	39	100%
20	Madhya Pradesh	1,27,69,378	1,27,64,064	100%	27,377	27,127	99%
21	Maharashtra	1,59,51,462	1,59,50,721	100%	52,642	52,642	100%

22	Manipur	5,66,335	5,63,705	100%	2,339	2,339	100%
23	Meghalaya	4,16,296	2,86,969	69%	4,735	4,727	100%
24	Mizoram	1,73,361	1,72,748	100%	1,258	1,258	100%
25	Nagaland	3,29,257	3,19,396	97%	1,783	1,774	99%
26	Odisha	93,15,606	92,58,661	99%	12,044	12,044	100%
27	Puducherry	1,99,991	1,99,797	100%	NA	NA	NA
28	Punjab	37,87,561	37,87,132	100%	18,150	18,150	100%
29	Rajasthan	1,07,45,502	1,07,34,859	100%	27,062	25,579	95%
30	Sikkim	97,711	97,433	100%	1,312	1,312	100%
31	Tamil Nadu	1,14,40,074	1,14,40,055	100%	34,805	34,805	100%
32	Telangana	54,33,823	54,33,823	100%	17,246	17,246	100%
33	Tripura	6,04,373	6,03,950	100%	2,057	2,057	100%
34	Uttarakhand	13,95,319	13,95,240	100%	9,059	9,059	100%
35	Uttar Pradesh	3,60,69,935	3,60,66,440	100%	79,216	79,216	100%
36	West Bengal	1,37,21,351	1,37,11,346	100%	20,476	20,476	100%
National Summary		20,06,16,426	20,01,44,968	99.76%	5,43,259	5,41,345	99.65%
