

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 303
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2019

TARGETED PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

†*303. SHRI DULAL CHAND GOSWAMI:

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

- (a) whether under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the identification process of poor beneficiaries had certain flaws and irregularities which have been corrected now;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether under TPDS, foodgrains are now being distributed without any flaws or irregularities to all poor beneficiaries or newly identified poor families; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE
STARRED QUESTION NO. *303 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 10.12.2019 IN THE
LOK SABHA REGARDING**

(a) to (d): The process of identification of eligible beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 was carried out by States/UTs on the basis of criteria determined by erstwhile Planning Commission (Now NITI Ayog). Accordingly, the responsibility of identification of eligible beneficiaries under NFSA lies with State/UT Governments. As per section 12 of NFSA 2013, for reforms in Targeted Public Distribution System, the Central and State Government shall endeavour to progressively undertake necessary reforms in the Targeted Public Distribution System in consonance with the role envisaged for them. The reforms shall, inter alia include application of information and communication technology tools including end-to-end computerization in order to ensure transparent recording of transactions at all levels, and to prevent diversion including leveraging aadhaar for unique identification, with biometric information of entitled beneficiaries for proper targeting of benefits of PDS to eligible beneficiaries.

Upon implementation of the End-to-End computerisation scheme, for PDS reforms, identification of beneficiaries in Fair Price shops (FPSs) is done primarily on the basis of Aadhaar authentication of the beneficiaries through electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) mechanism. So far nearly 4.58 lakh FPSs, out of a total of about 5.35 lakh FPSs in the country have been automated with ePoS devices with Aadhaar authentication facility. About 86% (about 20 crore) ration card & about 81.5% (about 65 crore) of beneficiaries have been seeded with Aadhaar numbers at the national level. Aadhaar authentication of eligible beneficiaries ensures rightful targeting of PDS benefits.

However, this Department has reiterated time and again to all State/UT Governments to ensure that no instance of denial of foodgrains or deletion of names of family from the Ration Card database only on the ground of non possession of Aadhaar takes place. Furthermore, in order to ensure delivery of PDS benefits to genuine beneficiaries in the event of failure of Aadhaar authentication certain alternatives modes/documents have been prescribed for providing their identity at the Fair Price Shops.
