

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 412
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15th SEPTEMBER, 2020**

AADHAAR OPTION FOR FREE RATION

**412. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA**

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 make Aadhaar optional to avail free ration to avoid exclusion errors;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government is planning to provide nutrition package with cereals for children under fourteen years; and**
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?**

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)

(a) & (b): As per the Notification of the Department dated 08/02/2017 (as amended from time to time), issued under the Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act 2016, the timeline given to all States/UTs for linking of Aadhaar numbers of beneficiaries with their ration cards has been extended up to 30/09/2020. Until then, all States/UTs have been advised vide letters dated 24/10/2017 and 08/11/2018 that no genuine beneficiary/household shall be denied from receiving entitled quota of subsidized foodgrains only for want of Aadhaar or due to failure of biometric/Aadhaar authentication due to network/connectivity/linking related issues, other technical reasons or poor biometrics of the beneficiary.

(c) & (d): National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach. In addition to the legal entitlement to two-third of the population of the country to receive highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Act contains provisions for nutritional support to pregnant women and lactating mothers and children upto 14 years of age as per specified nutritional standards.

Further, this Department allocated 25.37 lakhs tones foodgrains to Ministry of Education during the year 2019-20 at NFSA rate for their Mid Day Meal (MDM) Programme.

A Total of 21.90 lakh tones of foodgrains was allocated during 2019-20 to Ministry of Women & Child Development for their Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (ICDS) at NFSA rate.
