

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 398
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH JULY, 2021**

IMPLEMENTATION OF ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD

**398. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:
SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RANJEETSINGH HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR:
SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA:
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:
SHRI LALLU SINGH:
SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:**

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 has introduced One Nation One Ration Card Scheme for ensuring food security by distributing essential food grains to poor middle class/migrant labourers/deprived class at their place of stay during Covid-19 pandemic lockdown period;**
- (b) if so, the present status of its implementation including procedure adopted/incentive provide, targets fixed/achievements & arrangements made, number of participants States/UTs with respective duties assigned, number of beneficiaries, increase in distribution of foodgrains, State/UT-wise, category-wise (SC/ST/OBC) including Tamil Nadu;**
- (c) whether the scheme is not being implemented in whole country and Nation Food Security Act(NFSA) ration card holders are not included in it, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith and the deadline for achieving the same;**
- (d) the percentage of aadhaar authentication for PDS transaction;**
- (e) whether the same has given rise to its misuse and harm to the migrant labourers in accessing foodgrains, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and**

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(f) whether crores of persons with Disabilities and poor families still remain unregistered under National Food Security Act, 2013, if so, the action taken by the State/UTs in this regard?

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): Under the Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, the Department is implementing the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan for nation-wide portability of ration cards under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), with an objective to empower all around 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrants (mostly poor and needy) to seamlessly lift their entitled NFSA foodgrains from any electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) enabled Fair Price Shop (FPS) of choice in the country by using their same existing ration card along with biometric authentication.

Presently, up to December 2020 the ONORC is enabled in 32 States/UTs covering almost 86% of the total NFSA population (nearly 69 Crore beneficiaries) in the country, enabling them to lift their entitled foodgrains from any FPS nearby to their place of work or stay in these States/UTs, even during the COVID-19 pandemic/ lockdown. Further, the Department is continuously pursuing with remaining 4 States/UT of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and West Bengal to enable the ONORC at the earliest, depending upon their requisite technical readiness. To implement the ration cards portability under ONORC, the key responsibilities of States/UTs include installation of ePoS devices at the FPSs, seeding of Aadhaar numbers with ration cards and enable biometric authentication of beneficiaries in the FPSs.

Further, under NFSA the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH) ration cards are issued to eligible households/beneficiaries by the respective States/UTs including Tamil Nadu up to ceiling coverage under the Act which may also include SC/ST/OBC population.

(d): As per the data appearing on central portals, an average of more than 75% monthly electronic PDS transactions at the national level are being done through biometric/Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.

(e): No sir.

(f): The NFSA provides coverage of up to 75% of rural population and up to 50% of urban population – upto a maximum 81.35 Crore beneficiaries in the country (as per the Census of 2011) to receive highly subsidized foodgrains from Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) every month. The coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society, including differently-abled, get food security benefits.

Further, the responsibility for identification of eligible households/beneficiaries and issuance of their ration cards rests with the States/UTs. In so far as coverage of eligible disabled persons is concerned, directions have been issued to all the States/UTs under Section-38 of the Act to cover eligible disabled persons under NFSA.