

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1710
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2021**

EXCLUSION OF BENEFICIARIES

1710. SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:

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

- (a) the measures taken to improve the targeting mechanism of Public Distribution System in all States and UTs to prevent the exclusion of beneficiaries and inclusion of ineligible citizens;**
- (b) the steps taken to increase the grain storage capacity at the district level and measures taken to prevent incidents of rotting;**
- (c) the details of the total subsidised food grains provided State and UT-wise and the people benefitted therefrom; and**
- (d) whether the Government has taken initiative to digitise the process of the distribution of food grains via Aadhar and if so, the details thereof?**

A N S W E R

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

(a): Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), inter-alia the responsibilities of identification of eligible households/ beneficiaries under the Act, issuance of ration cards to them, regular review of the list of ration card holders/ beneficiaries, etc. rests with the respective State/UT Governments. However, under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) reforms, to bring transparency and improvement in targeting of eligible households/beneficiaries under the Act, the Department in association with all States/UTs has achieved 100% digitization of all ration cards/ beneficiaries' data in the country. More than 93% ration cards are also Aadhaar seeded at the national level and the digitized list of all beneficiaries is available in public domain on the transparency portals of the respective States/UTs. Besides, the NFSA also provides a mechanism of social audits of the TPDS operations including the inclusion and exclusion of beneficiaries.

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(b): Food Corporation of India (FCI) continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity in the country and based on the requirement and storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired under following schemes :-

- a) Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme.**
- b) Central Sector Scheme (CSS).**
- c) Construction of SILO's**
- d) Hiring of godown from CWCs/SWCs**
- e) Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS)**

Further, the steps taken by the Government for safe storage of foodgrains to reduce the damage are stated in Annexure-I.

(c): The NFSA provides for a maximum coverage of about 81.35 Crore beneficiaries in the country for receiving the benefit of subsidised foodgrains through TPDS. Accordingly, during the year 2020-21, the Department had allocated about 521.26 LMT foodgrains under regular NFSA to the States/UTs for distribution to about 80.95 Crore beneficiaries actually covered by them under NFSA as in April 2020. A statement showing State/UT wise total allocation of foodgrains during 2020-21 and coverage of beneficiaries in April 2020 is at Annexure-II.

(d): Under TPDS reforms, for transparent distribution of subsidised foodgrains to eligible NFSA beneficiaries through digital transactions, the electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices are also installed in more than 93.5% of total 5.33 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country so far. Presently, on an average of 80% to 85% of monthly ePoS transactions in the country happen with biometric authentication of beneficiaries to ensure the delivery of subsidised foodgrains to their rightful beneficiaries.
