

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2971  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**POINT OF SALE MACHINES**

**2971. SHRI LORHO S. PFOZE:**

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

- (a) **whether it is a fact that Government has launched 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme to enable ration-card holders to access ration from any PDS shop in the country;**
- (b) **if so, the steps taken by the Government to install Point of Sale (POS) machines across the country to enable the same;**
- (c) **the number of PDS shops enabled with POS machines and the number still not covered with POS machines in Northeast India, especially in Manipur; and**
- (d) **the timeframe by which all PDS shops would be POS-enabled in Northeast India, including Manipur?**

**A N S W E R**

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

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(a): **Yes sir. The Department, in collaboration with State/UT Governments, has so far enabled the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan in 34 States/UTs, covering about 75 Crore beneficiaries, that is, 94.3% National Food Security Act (NFSA) population in the country, to have an option to lift their entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice in these States/UTs by using their same/existing ration cards along with Aadhaar biometric authentication on a electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device.**

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**(b): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) is operated in joint responsibilities of the Central and the State/UT Governments, wherein inter-alia all on-ground responsibilities of TPDS operations, including the installation of ePoS devices at FPSs, rests with the respective State/UT Governments. Further, as part of the Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, the Department in November 2014 had issued implementation guidelines to all States/UTs for the installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices with biometric scanners in all FPSs for transparent, efficient and ensured distribution of the subsidised foodgrains to all NFSA beneficiaries.**

**(c) & (d): So far, the ePoS devices are installed in more than 4.98 Lakh (93.5%) of total 5.33 Lakh FPSs in the country. The installation of ePoS devices has been completed in all North Eastern States, including Manipur except Assam. Department has done regular follow ups with the Government of Assam to complete the installation of nearly 33,800 ePoS devices in Assam.**

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