

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.128
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2022**

LEAKAGE IN PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SCHEME

128. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to minimize leakage in Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) for Antyodaya, Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) ration card holders;**
- (b) whether there are any change in the distribution of PDS ration after the introduction of Aadhaar linking and Biometric authentication; and**
- (c) 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, 2013 (NFSA), this Department provides foodgrains to States/UTs for distribution through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to the beneficiaries/households covered under the two categories of NFSA, namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH).

To minimize the leakages and diversion of the subsidized foodgrains, this Department, in association with all States/UTs, implemented the scheme of 'End to End Computerization of TPDS Operations' which inter-alia comprised digitization of ration cards/ beneficiaries' data, installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at all Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc. for transparent distribution of foodgrains to all beneficiaries under NFSA.

.....2/-

(b) & (c): Under NFSA, this Department allocates foodgrains to States/UTs for distribution to around 80 crore NFSA beneficiaries in the country on a monthly basis. Further, due to Aadhaar seeding and installation of ePoS devices at the FPSs, at present, around 90% of total ePoS transactions in the country are done in a transparent manner through biometric authentication on a monthly basis. All States/UTs have been advised vide letter dated 24/10/2017 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. As per provisions of this Department's Aadhaar Notification dated 8 February 2017, till the Aadhaar is assigned to the beneficiaries, either of the eight identification documents shall be used for identification purpose i.e. (Voter ID Card, PAN Card, Passport, Driving License, Certificate of Identity with photo issued by Gazetted Officer/Tehsildar on official letter head, Address card having Name and Photo issued by Department of Posts, Kisan Photo Passbook and any other document as specified by State/UT Governments). Also, the timeline given to all States/UTs for linking of Aadhaar numbers of beneficiaries with their ration cards has been extended up to 31/03/2022.
