

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.335
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024

DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS UNDER PDS

335 DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

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

- (a) the current status of Public Distribution System (PDS) in India, including the number of beneficiaries and total quantity of foodgrains distributed through system annually within Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to address challenges in PDS, particularly in terms of ensuring timely and adequate food distribution to beneficiaries, especially in remote and underserved areas;
- (c) the measures being implemented to reduce leakages, corruption and diversion of foodgrains in the PDS and the extent to which these have been effective so far;
- (d) whether the Government has identified and addressed instances of exclusion or noncoverage of eligible families from PDS, particularly in rural and economically backward areas and if so, the number of such cases which have been rectified;
- (e) the manner in which the Government is ensuring quality of foodgrains provided through the PDS; and
- (f) whether there are any quality control measures in place to prevent substandard grains from being distributed and if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) governed under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries & families, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries, supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/ UT Governments. At present, there are 3.61 crore NFSA beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu State. A total quantity of 25.7 LMT foodgrains allocated annually under NFSA for Tamil Nadu State.

(b) & (c): Under PDS reforms, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs, transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Further online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra & Nagar Haveli which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs. Presently, 99.8% ration cards are seeded with Aadhaar number at national level and almost all FPSs have been automated by installation of e-PoS devices for the distribution of food-grains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric /Aadhaar authentication of NFSA beneficiaries.

(d): As per the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Control Order 2015, the review of ration cards/beneficiaries list, identification of ineligible/ duplicate ration cards and inclusion of eligible beneficiaries/households is the responsibility of concerned State/UT Government. States/UTs have been advised to undertake proper verification (including field verification) of each identified case to ensure that ration cards of genuine beneficiaries are not deleted/suspended.

(e) & (f): This Department has formulated and issued a Quality Control Manual, in order to maintain the quality standards of foodgrains from procurement to its distribution to the eligible beneficiaries.
