

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.190
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH MARCH, 2025

IMPLEMENTATION OF SMART-PDS

***190. SHRI MOHITE PATIL DHAIRYASHEEL RAJSINH:
SHRI BHASKAR MURLIDHAR BHAGARE:**

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the implementation of the Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS) across States including Maharashtra;
- (b) the name of States which have adopted the SMART-PDS system so far including challenges being faced by these States in the implementation process;
- (c) the primary objectives of the SMART-PDS scheme in improving the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;
- (d) the percentage of the population expected to benefit from the modernization efforts under SMART-PDS;
- (e) whether the Government has allocated funds for strengthening digital infrastructure and internet connectivity in remote areas for effective implementation of SMART-PDS and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the measures being taken to ensure that beneficiaries in remote or rural areas with limited digital access can benefit from SMART-PDS; and
- (g) whether the Government has chalked out training programmes and imparted training to officials and staff involved in the SMART-PDS implementation and if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 190 FOR ANSWER ON 12.03.2025 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): This Department is implementing the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) “Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS)” for the development and implementation of advanced integrated supply chain software in States/UTs. At present, the SMART-PDS is in development phase. The project was started by NIC from October 2024 and the application is expected to be launched in phases from April 2025 onwards. This includes Maharashtra State as well.

(b): This Department has signed MoUs with 35 States/UTs (except Tamil Nadu, which is under process) for the SMART-PDS scheme. At present, the development of SMART PDS is under progress.

(c): The SMART-PDS scheme envisages to strengthen the technology infrastructure in Public Distribution System (PDS) to lead the technology driven reforms and transformative change in the entire PDS ecosystem covering NFSA and State schemes. Thus, SMART-PDS is launched to sustain the Information Technology-led Reforms to be brought in the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) Operations by overcoming the state level technological limitations of PDS operations in all States/UTs in respect of IT Hardware, Software and to institutionalize an integrated Central System covering all PDS related operations across all States/UTs.

(d): All PDS beneficiaries of the country benefit from the modernization efforts of the SMART PDS system. At present, against the total intended coverage of 81.35 Crore under NFSA, 80.56 Crore persons are receiving food grains free of cost under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), which comes to about 99.03% of total coverage.

(e): The scheme is being implemented in collaboration with all States/UTs, with a total cost of Rs. 349.9 crore for a period of 3 years from FY 2023-24 to 2025-26. Under this scheme, provisions have been made to replace existing servers/ data centers by leveraging cloud infrastructure in all areas for effective implementation of SMART-PDS.

(f): To ensure the availability of internet/connectivity for ePoS devices at FPSs in remote locations / shadow/no network areas in some States, the Department of Telecommunications has been requested to resolve the internet/connectivity related issues. The beneficiaries are empowered under ONORC to lift their entitled foodgrains from any FPS having operational ePoS device without facing any internet/connectivity related challenges. The ePoS devices have a functionality to work in offline mode with limited/ no internet connectivity. The ePOS devices have to come periodically to network area to sync the offline ePOS data with PDS online system.

(g): The details of the State consultations/ training programmes and imparted training to officials is at **Annexure**.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 190 FOR ANSWER ON 12.03.2025 IN THE LOK SABHA.

The details of the State consultations/ training programmes and imparted training to officials.

Date	State Govt/NIC/Other Stakeholder	Activity
30-Sep-24	FCI	Demonstration of Depot Online System
07-Oct-24	Cloud service provider	Technical Discussion with Cloud service provider team on solution
08-Oct-24	NIC Hyderabad	Demo of ePOS system
09-Oct-24	NIC Hyderabad	Demo of ePOS portal from admin login
10-Oct-24	Tamil Nadu	Demonstration of Tamil Nadu PDS
11-Oct-24	Gujarat	Demonstration of Gujarat PDS
11-Oct-24	Cloud service provider	Technical discussion with Cloud service provider Team on Database
14-Oct-24	Chhattisgarh	Demonstration of Chhattisgarh PDS
15-Oct-24	Uttar Pradesh	Demonstration of Uttar Pradesh PDS
16-Oct-24	Madhya Pradesh	Demonstration of Madhya Pradesh PDS
17-Oct-24	Puducherry	Demonstration of Puducherry PDS
17-Oct-24	Arunachal Pradesh	Demonstration of Arunachal Pradesh PDS
18-Oct-24	Kerala	Demonstration of Kerala PDS
19-Oct-24	Haryana	Demonstration of Haryana PDS
21-Oct-24	Punjab	Demonstration of Punjab PDS
22-Oct-24	Karnataka	Demonstration of Karnataka PDS
22-Oct-24	Delhi	Demonstration of Delhi PDS
23-Oct-24	Jharkhand	Demonstration of Jharkhand PDS
23-Oct-24	Bihar	Demonstration of Bihar PDS
23-Oct-24	NIC Bangalore	Discussion on the blockchain
24-Oct-24	Telangana	Demonstration of Telangana PDS
24-Oct-24	Andhra Pradesh	Demonstration of Andhra Pradesh PDS
25-Oct-24	West Bengal	Demonstration of West Bengal PDS
26-Oct-24	Rajasthan	Demonstration of Rajasthan PDS
28-Oct-24	Odisha	Demonstration of Odisha PDS
28-Oct-24	Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim	Discussions on PDS with North East States
29-Oct-24	Himachal Pradesh	Demonstration of Himachal PDS
13-Nov-24	FCI	Meeting with FCI on Depot Online System documentation

06-Dec-24	Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad location)	In person meeting with State NIC, Development team and other officials
07-Dec-24	Karnataka (Bangalore location)	In person meeting with State NIC and other officials
09-Dec-24	Karnataka (Bangalore location)	In person study of PDS system
09-Dec-24	Uttar Pradesh (Kanpur)	Discussion on RCMS functioning at the District level with NIC team
27-Jan-25	Chandigarh	Demonstrated the process maps of DBT flow with NIC team
28-Jan-25	Delhi	Discussion on DBT flow with NIC team
29-Jan-25	Uttar Pradesh	Demonstration of Procurement module by NIC team
29-Jan-25	West Bengal	Demonstration of RCMS, FPS and Procurement module by NIC team
30-Jan-25	Uttar Pradesh	Meeting for discussion on Procurement module and clarifications
30-Jan-25	Kerala	Demonstration of grievance module
30-Jan-25	Chandigarh	Discussion on DBT flow
20-Feb-25	Sikkim	Demonstration of newly developed RCMS and FPS modules
20-Feb-25	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Demonstration of newly developed RCMS and FPS modules
20-Feb-25	Andhra Pradesh	Demonstration of newly developed RCMS and FPS modules
24-Feb-25	Arunachal Pradesh	Demonstration of newly developed RCMS and FPS modules
03-Mar-25	Assam	Demonstration of newly developed RCMS and FPS modules
03-Mar-25	Manipur	Demonstration of newly developed RCMS and FPS modules
03-Mar-25	Meghalaya	Demonstration of newly developed RCMS and FPS modules
04-Mar-25	Mizoram	Demonstration of newly developed RCMS and FPS modules
04-Mar-25	Nagaland	Demonstration of newly developed RCMS and FPS modules
04-Mar-25	Goa	Demonstration of newly developed RCMS and FPS modules
04-Mar-25	Arunachal Pradesh	UAT by State team of developed RCMS and FPS modules
05-Mar-25	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	UAT by State team of developed RCMS and FPS modules
