

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2150
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH MARCH, 2025

TPDS IN TAMIL NADU

2150. SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to implement the reforms under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) across the country and the current status of these reforms in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether the introduction of technologies such as Aadhaar-based authentication, Epos machines and automated supply chain management improved the efficiency and transparency of the TPDS in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the coverage of TPDS in Tamil Nadu and the number of households currently receiving foodgrains and other subsidized commodities under the system;
- (d) the details of the measures being taken by the Government to ensure that the benefits of the TPDS reforms reach the marginalized sections of society particularly in rural and remote areas of Tamil Nadu;
- (e) whether there have been any challenges or issues in the implementation of the TPDS reforms such as leakages or delays; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address these concerns?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) & (b): As part of the technology driven Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) reforms, with the aim to improve the efficiency and reduce leakages in the TPDS, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs (including Tamil Nadu). The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs (including Tamil Nadu). Also, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and Urban area of Dadra & Nagar Haveli which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs (including Tamil Nadu). Further, for better tracking of foodgrains distribution, nearly 5.41 Lakh (99.6%) out of total 5.43 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country (including Tamil Nadu) have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.

(c): The NFSA provides for coverage of about 364.12 lakh persons for receiving foodgrains free of cost in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(d) to (f): Foodgrains distribution under TPDS are being done through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries across the country including Tamil Nadu for fair & transparent manner. 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, all 34,805 Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the State of Tamil Nadu have been automated by installing ePoS devices for seamless distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.
