

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2213
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH MARCH, 2025

PDS CARDS

2213. DR. GANAPATHY RAJKUMAR P:

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

- (a) whether Public Distribution System (PDS) has been implemented across all the states;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to set up Centralized Public Distribution Cards in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether there have been any instances to mortgage of PDS Cards meant for poor people; and
- (f) if so, the action taken to eradicate such mortgage of PDS cards?

A N S W E R

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

(a) & (b): The Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 in all States/UTs. The Act provides coverage upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarsegrains) under Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). The Priority Households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month and the households covered under the AAY receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month per household.

(c) & (d): There is no proposal under consideration to set up Centralized Public Distribution Cards in the country. However, the nationwide portability of ration cards is popularly known as One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) feature. Through this technology driven reform, around 80 Crore PMGKAY beneficiaries are empowered to lift their entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice, anywhere in the country, by using their same existing ration card with biometric authentication on an electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device. The family back home can also lift the part of the PMGKAY foodgrains in the home State/UT on the same ration card.

(e) & (f): No Sir, there is no instance to mortgage of PDS Cards reported by any State/UTs.
