

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5081
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND APRIL, 2025

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM LEAKAGES

5081. SHRI S JAGATHRATCHAKAN:

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

- (a) the estimated annual quantity of foodgrains, in million tonnes, that failed to reach intended beneficiaries due to leakages in the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the estimated annual financial loss to the exchequer, in crore rupees, resulting from these PDS leakages during the same period;
- (c) the specific measures implemented to reduce such leakages including the introduction of digital technologies and monitoring systems;
- (d) whether the Government has ascertained the impact of these leakages in ensuring food security for the intended beneficiaries and if so, details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (e): Given the robust digital interventions on both the supply and distribution sides, the possibility of leakages in the system has been effectively eliminated. Consequently, there is no financial loss to the exchequer, as the system prevents any form of leakage or misallocation.

Under the technology-driven reforms of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the digitization of ration card and beneficiary databases has been successfully completed across all States and Union Territories (UTs). All 20 crore ration cards, covering more than 80 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, have been fully digitized.

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To enhance transparency and accountability, a dedicated transparency portal and an online grievance redressal system, including a toll-free helpline, have been implemented across all States and UTs. Furthermore, Online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh and Puducherry which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs.

Food grain distribution is carried out through 5.41 lakh e-PoS devices, ensuring near-universal coverage of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) across the country. These e-PoS devices facilitate Aadhaar authentication during the distribution process, ensuring rightful targeting of beneficiaries. As a result, 98% of food grain distribution is conducted through Aadhaar authentication.
