

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2852
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH AUGUST, 2025

BENEFICIARIES COVERED UNDER PDS

2852. SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:

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

- (a): the details of the total number of beneficiaries covered under the Public Distribution System (PDS) across the country, State-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (b): the measures taken by the Government to ensure transparency and reduce leakages in the distribution of foodgrains under PDS especially in Tamil Nadu;
- (c): the status of digitisation of ration cards and installation of e-Point of Sale (e-POS) devices at Fair Price Shops in Tamil Nadu;
- (d): the number and nature of complaints received related to PDS in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the action taken on them;
- (e): whether the Government proposes any steps to improve the reach and efficiency of PDS to ensure food security in rural and urban areas of Tamil Nadu; and
- (f): 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): The Public Distribution System (PDS) is governed as per provisions of the National Food Security Act 2013, (NFSA). A Statement indicating the State/UT-wise coverage of beneficiaries under the NFSA is at **Annexure**.

(b) & (c): As part of the technology driven Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) reforms, with the aim to enhance transparency and efficiency 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 (including Tamil Nadu) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs – including Tamil Nadu (except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and Urban area of Dadra & Nagar Haveli which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme).

Further, for better tracking of foodgrains distribution, all Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the 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.”

(d): The complaints related to PDS predominantly pertain to the following categories:

- i. Inclusion/ exclusion of members in the ration card.
- ii. Issuance of New Ration card/ Deletion of Ration card/ Change of Category of Ration card.
- iii. Errors in the beneficiary details.
- iv. Quality/ Quantity of foodgrains.
- v. Error/ delay while biometric authentication of beneficiaries on ePoS devices.
- vi. Overcharging or unauthorized collection of money by FPS (Fair Price Shop) dealers.

In so far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, a total no. of 309 complaints related to PDS were received during the last three years i.e. 2022 to 2024 (i.e. 55 in 2022, 103 in 2023 and 151 in 2024). These complaints were sent to the State Government for inquiry and appropriate action.

(e) & (f): As in part (b) & (c) above.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2852 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 06.08.2025 REGARDING “BENEFICIARIES COVERED UNDER PDS”.

Statement showing the State-wise coverage of beneficiaries under NFSA

(in Lakh)

S.No	States/ UTs	Present Coverage
1	Andhra Pradesh	268.22
2	Arunachal Pradesh	8.44
3	Assam	247.98
4	Bihar	871.16
5	Chattisgarh	200.77
6	Delhi	72.78
7	Goa	5.32
8	Gujarat	365.84
9	Haryana	126.49
10	Himachal Pradesh	29.88
11	Jharkhand	264.19
12	Karnataka	401.93
13	Kerala	154.80
14	Madhya Pradesh	534.79
15	Maharashtra	700.17
16	Manipur	20.87
17	Meghalaya	21.46
18	Mizoram	7.05
19	Nagaland	14.05
20	Odisha	325.17
21	Punjab	141.45
22	Rajasthan	440.01
23	Sikkim	3.81
24	Tamil Nadu	364.12
25	Telangana	191.70
26	Tripura	24.43
27	Uttar Pradesh	1498.70
28	Uttarakhand	61.94
29	West Bengal	601.84
30	A&N	0.61
31	DNH&DD	2.69
32	Lakshadweep	0.22
33	Chandigarh (DBT)	2.99
34	Puduchery (DBT)	6.34
35	J&K	72.41
36	Ladakh	1.44
Total		8056.05