

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4396
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH AUGUST, 2025

PROBLEMS IN PDS

4396 SHRI BABU SINGH KUSHWAHA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance that in many districts including Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh, the distributors associated with the Public Distribution System (PDS) are facing serious problems such as frequent breakdown of e-POS machines and difficulty in distribution of rations due to non-availability of network and immediate suspension in case of non-distribution of rations through machines, administrative pressure in distribution of ration in case of failure of Aadhaar authentication, delay in payment after distribution of ration is deteriorating the condition of distributors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government is formulating any concrete action plan to ensure monthly income of distributors, simplify distribution process and improve technology;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Government is likely to consider it in the near future; and
- (e) if so, the time by when it will be done?

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 is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). As far as the operational responsibility is concerned, which includes allocation within State/UT, identification of eligible families, issue of Ration Cards, Aadhaar Seeding in Ration Cards, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries and supervision of the functioning of Fair Price Shops etc., rests with the concerned State/UT Governments.

This Department has not received such reports from Uttar Pradesh. However, this Department has advised all States/ UTs that no genuine beneficiary/ household shall be denied from receiving entitled quota of subsidized foodgrains due to failure of biometric/Aadhaar authentication due to network/ connectivity/ linking related issues, other technical reasons or poor biometrics of the beneficiary.

(c) to (e): The Central Government only provides the assistance to States/UTs for meeting the expenditure towards intra-State movement & handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margin under the NFSA in accordance with the provisions of Food Security (Assistance to State Governments) Rules, 2015 (as amended from time to time) which inter-alia provides for norms of expenditure and pattern of central sharing. In order to ensure viability of Fair Price Shops, the norms of FPS Dealers margin was enhanced as per the details given below:

Category of States	Component of FPS margin	Pre-revised norms (Rate in rupee per quintal) (upto 31 st March, 2022)	Revised norms (Rate in rupee per quintal) (w.e.f. 1.4.2022)
General Category States/UTs	Transportation & handling	65	70
	FPS Dealers Margin	70	90
	Additional margin	17	21
Special category States/UTs	Transportation & handling	100	105
	FPS Dealers Margin	143	180
	Additional margin	17	26

Special category states includes Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and seven north east states.

However, the State Governments are free to fix the actual rates, which can be higher than the norms specified in the rules. Central assistance will be limited to the rates specified in the Rules or the actual average rates for the State as a whole, at which the expenditure was actually incurred by the State Government, whichever is lower.

As per sub-clause (9) of Clause 9 of the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, the State Government shall allow sale of commodities other than the foodgrains distributed under the TPDS at the fair price shops to improve the viability of the fair price shop operations.

At present, all Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the State of Uttar Pradesh have been automated by installing ePoS devices for seamless distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries. The process of distributing foodgrains through ePoS devices is very simple and does not require any special digital literacy among beneficiaries to lift their entitled foodgrains through electronic transactions. Further, States/UTs are advised to ensure that ePoS printed transaction receipts are provided to all beneficiaries in local language, besides SMS be sent on their registered mobile numbers to ensure complete transparency in distribution process.
