

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4423
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH AUGUST, 2025

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PDS IN MAHARASHTRA

4423 DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL DHAIRYASHEEL RAJSINH:
SMT. SUPRIYA SULE:
PROF. VARSHA EKNATH GAIKWAD:
SHRI BHASKAR MURLIDHAR BHAGARE:
SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL:

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

- (a) the present status of implementation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the State of Maharashtra including coverage of beneficiaries and commodities distributed;
- (b) the number of Fair Price Shops (FPS) currently functional in Maharashtra and the total number of ration card holders benefiting under the PDS;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any evaluations to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the PDS in Maharashtra and if so, the key findings thereof;
- (d) the steps taken to ensure timely and transparent delivery of foodgrains and essential commodities to beneficiaries in rural, tribal and urban areas of the said State;
- (e) whether any irregularities have been reported in the PDS implementation in Maharashtra in recent years and if so, the action taken thereon; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to increase the remuneration/commission of FPS dealers in light of rising inflation and operating costs and 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 now governed as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). The Act is being successfully implemented in all the States/UTs including State of Maharashtra. Under the Act, the maximum coverage of beneficiaries determined for the State of Maharashtra is 76.32% of the rural and 45.34% of the urban population which at Census 2011 comes to 700.17 lakh persons. The State of Maharashtra has identified the beneficiaries upto maximum permissible limit i.e. 700.17 lakh persons.

The term “foodgrains” is defined as rice, wheat or coarse grains or any combination thereof conforming to such quality norms as may be determined, by order, by the Central Government from time to time.

(b): There are 59,819 number of Fair Price Shops (FPS) and 1,67,41,854 number of ration card in State of Maharashtra.

(c): This Department engaged Monitoring Institutions (MIs) of repute to undertake concurrent evaluation of the implementation of the Act in different States/UTs, including Maharashtra, for Phase-I (2018-20) and Phase-II (2020-23). Reports and the findings submitted by the MIs are available in public domain at “[https://nfsa.gov.in/portal/Concurrent Evaluation](https://nfsa.gov.in/portal/Concurrent%20Evaluation)”

(d): Under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Government, the responsibility for identification of beneficiaries, issuance of their ration cards and distribution of foodgrains as per their entitlement under the Act rests with the concerned State Government.

As part of the technology driven Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) reforms, with the aim to improve the transparency and accountability in the TPDS, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Also, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs (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, nearly 5.41 Lakh (99.6%) out of total 5.43 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.

(e): There is no report from State Government regarding any irregularities in implementation of PDS in the State of Maharashtra.

(f): The TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibility including issuance of licenses to Fair Price Shops (FPSs), supervision and monitoring of the functioning of Fair Price Shops etc., rest with the concerned State/UT Government. As per sub-clause (7) of clause 9 of the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, the State Government shall fix an amount as the fair price shop owner’s margin, which shall be periodically reviewed for ensuring sustained viability of the fair price shop operations.

The Central Government has limited role in determining the actual rate of fair price shop dealers' margin/ commission/ honorarium etc. 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 Central Assistance towards FPS Dealers' margin were enhanced w.e.f. April, 2022.

At present, no proposal for enhancement of FPS dealers' margin is under consideration of the Government.
