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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 525
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2025

PDS REFORMS

525.   SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

(a)   whether it is true that under Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, all ration cards database have been digitized and more than 90% Fair Price Shops (FPSs) have been automated with e-Point of Sale devices;

(b)   whether there is any proposal to digitize storage capacity, storage of foodgrains, storage gap assessment of Food Corporation of India, private warehouses and also warehouses under State agencies;

(c)   if so, the details thereof;

(d)   whether the Government has observed that due to manual weighment of foodgrains, many FPSs in the country are resorting to cheat the beneficiaries;

(e)   if so, whether the Government is considering to make it mandatory for electronic weighing scales or machines and integrating them with ePoS devices to prevent cheating; and

(f)   if so, the details thereof?

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

(a):   As part of the technology driven Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) reforms, with the aim to enhance transparency and improve efficiency in the TPDS, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. 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.

(b) & (c): Food Corporation of India (FCI) is using Depot Online System (DOS) for capturing real time storage capacity and stock position.

The SMART Warehouse pilot, implemented by WFP in collaboration with DFPD, uses IoT technology in government warehouses to minimize foodgrain losses. Monitoring parameters include temperature, humidity, gas levels, airflow, and events such as unauthorized access, rodent, and insect activity. The pilot project is underway in FCI godowns in phased manner.

Further, Depot Darpan portal has also been introduced as another step towards Modernization and Digitalization of storage facilities in FCI. The Portal facilitates self-assessment, rating, and grading of FCI depots (owned and hired).

(d) to (f): Section 12 (b) of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) intra-alia provides for "application of information and communication technology tools including end-to-end computerization in order to ensure transparent recording of transactions at all levels, and to prevent diversion". Accordingly, to ensure that entitled quantity of foodgrains is distributed to the eligible beneficiaries and to maintain transparency, all the States/UTs have been requested to integrate electronic weighing scales with the electronic point of sales (ePoS) devices.

The current status of linking of e-PoS Devices with electronic weighing scale received from States/UTs is as follows:-

Particulars	Number of States	Name of the States
Integrated	7	Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal,
Partly integrated	4	Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab, Tamil Nadu
Not integrated	23	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Andaman & Nicobar islands, DNH & DD, Lakshadweep, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh
Not applicable	2	Chandigarh, Puducherry (The Act is being implemented in DBT Cash mode).

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