

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2949
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2025

LEAKAGES IN PDS

2949. ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

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

- (a): whether the States with large SC/ST/OBC beneficiary populations, such as West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have reported significant PDS rice leakages including cross-border smuggling;
- (b): if so, the details thereof; and
- (c): the manner in which the Government is addressing the involvement of private millers and transporters repeatedly implicated in diversion cases and the mechanisms that are in place to support affected marginalised families?

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

(a) to (b): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is governed under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 and it is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of food grains within the States/ UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of food grains to the eligible beneficiaries under TPDS, issuance of license to the Fair Price Shop dealers, supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

State Government of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have informed that no such cases of rice leakages including cross-border smuggling in the Public Distribution System (PDS) has been reported and identified on its basis. However, as and when complaints/ grievances in respect of PDS are received from any source, they are sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

(c): In order to standardize milling operations and verification of stocks lying with millers, guidelines for milling and Custom Milled Rice (CMR) delivery have been issued to all paddy procuring states, incorporating modalities for activities covering the entire life cycle of paddy conversion to rice.

Further, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has also been issued for Physical Verification (PV) of Paddy at the mill premises/storage points at the end of procurement period and for mandatory Joint PV by State Government and FCI at the time of seeking extension for milling/CMR delivery period.
