

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 622
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2025

MODERNIZATION OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION

622. THIRU ARUN NEHRU:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to modernize food distribution, storage and logistics infrastructure in Tamil Nadu to reduce post-harvest losses and control food inflation;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to expand smart and climate-resilient agriculture practices in Tamil Nadu to increase food production and ensure price stability and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government plans to increase investment in food-processing industries in Tamil Nadu to reduce wastage and stabilize prices 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): Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD), has taken following initiatives to modernize food distribution, storage & logistics infrastructure in the country including Tamil Nadu :-

Public Distribution System (PDS) Reforms:-

Under PDS reforms, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely (100%) digitized in all States/UTs, transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Further online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra & Nagar Haveli which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs.

Further, this Department is implementing "Scheme for Modernisation and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS)" Scheme to strengthen the technology infrastructure in Public Distribution System (PDS) to lead the technology driven reforms and transformative change in the entire PDS ecosystem covering NFSA and State schemes. This Scheme includes four modules namely (i) Food Grains Procurement, (ii) Supply Chain Management/ Allocation of Grains, (iii) Ration Cards Management System & Fair Price Shop Management and (iv) Biometric Based Grains Distribution Module (eKYC).

Storage Related Reforms :-

(i) Smart Warehouse Project :-

Department is in the process of converting 150 owned Depots of Food Corporation of India (FCI) to smart warehouses on pilot basis. Besides, all the food grain depots of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) are also covered under smart warehouse project.

Under this project, traditional depots are converted in smart warehouses which are equipped with different sensors like smoke sensors, fire sensors & gate opening sensor etc. for monitoring key parameters such as CO₂, phosphine levels, fire hazards, humidity, unauthorized entry and temperature on real time basis.

This initiative is to ensure real-time visibility, timely intervention, data-driven decision-making & standardized operations across all depots contributing to ensure safe, secure, and efficient food grain storage and distribution.

(ii) Anna Darpan Project :-

The Department has initiated the development of “ANNA DARPAN” a next generation, microservices- based integrated supply chain management system. The system designed to streamline operations across Mandis, Mills, Depots and all administrative levels. The Anna Darpan project pilot has been launched in 108 Depots on 18.11.2025.

(iii) Transformation of FCI :-

For the upgradation of FCI owned godowns, the Department has allocated the capital budget under ‘Transformation of FCI’ initiative, which was started in FY 2023-24. The budget received under this initiative is primarily used for replacements of old damaged Bituminous (BT) roads by Cement Concrete (CC) roads, replacement of old damaged Asbestos Cement (AC) sheet roofs with pre color coated Galvanised Iron profile roof sheets, upgradation of lighting system and installation of Diesel Generator Set as power backup at food storage godowns.

(iv) Depot Darpan Portal

Depot Darpan Portal is a digital platform launched by this Department to enhance the monitoring, transparency and efficiency of food-grain storage depots under PDS.

This Portal uses a composite scoring system, assessing depots on two broad categories: Infrastructure and Operational Parameters. Based on the scores, each depot receives a star rating, which is meant to provide a quick assessment of depot performance. Validation of data is built into the process via 100% supervisory officer verification and some random third-party audits to ensure reliability.

(v) "Anna Chakra" PDS Supply Chain Optimization Tool:

Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has implemented "Anna Chakra" tool for PDS Supply Chain Optimization. The tool is designed to streamline the PDS supply chain, improving efficiency, cutting carbon emissions, and reducing overall costs while supporting 81 crore vulnerable citizens. Early results are encouraging, transportation costs are estimated to be reduced by nearly Rs. 250 crore annually. Using state-specific algorithms, the system optimizes routing based on warehouse locations, storage capacities, and road distances, achieving a 15 to 50% reduction in transport distances.

"Anna Chakra" Inter-state Route optimization tool :

Inter-state movement optimization has been undertaken to streamline and enhance the interstate movement operations of foodgrains, primarily by rail, undertaken by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). These movements are planned to meet Public Distribution System (PDS) requirements in consuming states while simultaneously managing storage space in procuring or surplus regions. The daily planning and execution of these operations is carried out by FCI using the tool developed for this purpose.

(b): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing a project- National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) that studies the impact of climate change on agriculture, conducts district level risk and vulnerability assessment of agriculture to future climate change. Under the project, risk and vulnerability assessment of agriculture to climate change has been carried out at district-level for 651 predominantly agricultural districts as per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) protocols. 310 districts were identified as vulnerable out of which 109 districts have been categorized as 'very high' and 201 districts as 'highly' vulnerable. For enhancing the resilience and adaptive capacity of farmers to climate variability, location-specific

climate resilient technologies such as system of rice intensification, aerobic rice, direct seeding of rice, zero till wheat sowing, cultivation of climate resilient varieties tolerant to extreme weather conditions such as drought and heat; in-situ incorporation of rice residues etc. have been demonstrated under the project through KVKs in 448 Climate Resilient Villages. Capacity building for establishing village level seed banks and community nurseries is being undertaken under NICRA project that enables availability of seeds in the adopted villages. Drought and flood tolerant climate-resilient varieties of rice, wheat, soybean, mustard, chickpea, sorghum, gram, and foxtail millet were demonstrated in several NICRA villages. Besides, training programmes are conducted under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) on various issues of agricultural practices including creation of awareness on using quality seeds among the farmers. Over the past decade (2014–2024), ICAR released 2,900 crop varieties, of which 2,661 are tolerant to one or more biotic or abiotic stresses. More than 14,407 training programmes have been organized, covering 5.14 lakh farmers to promote adoption of climate-resilient technologies.

(c): Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) implements Central Sector Umbrella Scheme-Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) since 2016-17 to create post-harvest infrastructure and processing facilities to boost the overall development of the food processing sector including reduction in post-harvest losses, enhancing value addition etc. The component schemes under PMKSY are (i) Mega Food Parks (the component has been discontinued with effect from 01.04.2021 with provision for committed liabilities only) (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, (iii) Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, (iv) Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages (The component has been discontinued from 1st April 2021) (v) Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities and (vi) Operation Greens. MoFPI provides credit linked financial assistance (capital subsidy) in the form of grants-in-aid to entrepreneurs for setting up of food processing/preservation infrastructure which, inter-alia, includes cold storages to minimize post-harvest losses.

Additionally, MoFPI implements schemes viz. Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) and Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Enterprises which aim for overall development of food processing sector, including creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet, providing better returns to farmers, creation of employment opportunities, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

Through these schemes, MoFPI aims to enhance level of food processing which helps in increasing shelf life, enhancing availability of food across regions throughout the year, thus helping in stabilizing food prices
