

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3193  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**FUNCTIONING OF PDS**

**3193. SHRI GODAM NAGESH:**

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

- (a): whether the Government has assessed the effectiveness and smooth functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS) across the country, particularly in the State of Telangana;
- (b): the steps taken to ensure timely availability of foodgrains, transparency in distribution and prevention of leakages under the PDS, State/UT-wise including Telangana;
- (c): the measures implemented to strengthen digital monitoring, Aadhaar-based authentication and grievance redressal mechanisms in fair price shops in Telangana; and
- (d): whether the Government proposes any reforms or technology-driven interventions to further improve service delivery and beneficiary satisfaction under the PDS 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)**

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(a): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) governed under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries & families, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries, supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/ UT Governments. Union Government has laid down a robust mechanism to seamlessly distribute the food grains under PMGKAY to around 80 Crore Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) beneficiaries through Fair Price Shops in all the State/UTs.

Further, this Department engaged Monitoring Institutions (MIs) of repute to undertake concurrent evaluation of the implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) in

different States/UTs for Phase-I (2018-20) and Phase-II (2020-23). Reports submitted by the MIs are available in public domain at [https://nfsa.gov.in/portal/Concurrent\\_Evaluation](https://nfsa.gov.in/portal/Concurrent_Evaluation)

(b) to (d): As part of the Government's digital initiatives to enhance reach, effectiveness under PMGKAY and the Public Distribution System (PDS), the ration card/beneficiary database has been 100% digitised across all States and Union Territories, with 99.7% ration cards Aadhaar-seeded and 99.2% beneficiaries aadhaar seeded.

This has enabled beneficiaries to access their full entitlements at Fair Price Shops through e-PoS devices using their Ration Card Number or Aadhaar Number, with biometric authentication. Further, initiatives such as One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), Mera Ration App and Anna Sahayata have expanded the reach of food security benefits, particularly to migrant and mobile populations, thereby improving the effectiveness of PMGKAY and PDS.

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