

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5416  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**CHALLENGES IN PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

**5416. SHRI K C VENUGOPAL:**

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

- (a): whether the Government has assessed exclusion errors and portability challenges under the Public Distribution System in the country with special reference to Kerala;
- (b): if so, the number of beneficiaries affected, State-wise including Kerala;
- (c): whether One Nation One Ration Card implementation is fully effective in the country and if so, the data on its effectiveness thereof, State-wise; and
- (d): the details of the steps taken by the Government to ensure food security for migrant and vulnerable populations?

**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) & (b): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), governed under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, operates under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities relating to identification of eligible beneficiaries and families, issuance and management of ration cards, and updation of beneficiary databases rest with the respective State/UT Governments.

In order to support States/UTs in improving the accuracy of beneficiary databases and addressing issues of inclusion and exclusion errors, the Department of Food and Public Distribution has undertaken a *Rightful Targeting exercise* using data analytics and cross-verification of beneficiary data with multiple external databases of other Ministries/Departments, including CBDT, GSTN/CBIC, MCA, MoRTH (Vahan), and Aadhaar (deceased), along with internal parameters such as silent and duplicate records. Based on this exercise, approximately **8.51 crore beneficiaries** were flagged across States/UTs for verification. Subsequent field-level verification by States/UTs has led to removal of about **2.21 crore ineligible beneficiaries** by States/UTs, thereby enabling improved targeting of genuinely eligible households, including in the State of Kerala. **State/UT-wise details are placed at Annexure-I.**

With regard to portability, the **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)** system has been fully implemented across all **36 States/UTs**, enabling nationwide portability of ration cards. The ONORC facility is available to all **PMGKAY beneficiaries**, allowing them to lift their entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop across the country through Aadhaar-based authentication. The successful nationwide rollout and widespread usage of ONORC have addressed portability

challenges and ensured seamless access to foodgrains for beneficiaries, particularly migrant populations.

(c) & (d): The One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme is a technology-driven initiative of the Department of Food and Public Distribution to enable nationwide portability of ration cards for beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The ONORC facility has been implemented in all 36 States/Union Territories, covering around 80 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). Under this system, beneficiaries can lift their entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) across the country using their existing ration card with Aadhaar-based biometric authentication on electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices.

The system particularly benefits migrant workers and other mobile populations by ensuring seamless access to subsidized foodgrains irrespective of their location. It operates through integration of ration card databases of all States/UTs and interoperable ePoS devices at FPSs. A statement showing the number of inter-State portability transactions recorded during the last two years is placed at **Annexure-II**.

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## Rightful Targeting

Sr No.	State Name	Flagged Cases	Deleted by States/UTs	Retained by States/UTs	Total Actions % by States
1	GUJARAT	55,09,230	15,17,734	42,84,766	100.00%
2	KERALA	19,21,831	85,788	18,09,058	98.60%
3	RAJASTHAN	75,68,053	16,67,678	56,87,645	97.19%
4	ODISHA	49,27,086	5,28,099	41,08,592	94.11%
5	ANDHRA PRADESH	37,90,418	3,21,157	30,43,946	88.78%
6	CHHATTISGARH	33,36,534	2,93,521	23,07,675	77.96%
7	UTTAR PRADESH	54,80,518	22,77,303	17,32,339	73.16%
8	TRIPURA	1,05,000	51,807	20,153	68.53%
9	LAKSHADWEEP	6,084	4,012	-	65.94%
10	HARYANA	31,64,507	20,03,743	1	63.32%
11	KARNATAKA	7,61,689	4,26,315	54,342	63.10%
12	BIHAR	54,20,773	13,46,788	14,54,077	51.67%
13	PUNJAB	22,11,899	2,66,548	7,94,297	47.96%
14	TELANGANA	4,95,795	1,39,718	79,998	44.32%
15	MAHARASHTRA	1,78,44,571	74,18,527	57,837	41.90%
16	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	971	137	267	41.61%
17	ASSAM	35,95,862	12,94,024	25	35.99%
18	TAMIL NADU	10,46,675	2,10,814	1,28,195	32.39%
19	WEST BENGAL	17,29,802	3,57,390	1,86,612	31.45%
20	JHARKHAND	40,69,980	6,94,090	3,66,617	26.06%
21	Dadar & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	52,265	8,689	9	16.64%
22	MADHYA PRADESH	73,85,254	9,26,882	2,15,687	15.47%
23	HIMACHAL PRADESH	5,32,435	25,357	55,324	15.15%
24	UTTARAKHAND	8,53,703	74,414	41,253	13.55%
27	SIKKIM	38,134	4,411	400	12.62%
28	CHANDIGARH	61,481	7,457	-	12.13%
29	DELHI	8,14,258	80,420	-	9.88%
30	NAGALAND	3,08,904	23,799	2	7.70%
31	GOA	49,279	3,312	-	6.72%
32	MIZORAM	1,72,241	8,669	7	5.04%
33	PUDUCHERRY	31,002	1,342	-	4.33%
34	LADAKH	19,229	618	1	3.22%
35	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	10,67,961	28,665	3,056	2.97%
36	MANIPUR	5,66,437	15,540	-	2.74%
37	MEGHALAYA	49,455	1,317	-	2.66%
38	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1,67,926	30	-	0.02%
Grand Total		8,51,57,242	2,21,16,115	2,64,32,181	57.01%

**State wise inter-State portability transactions recorded during the last two years**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>State / UT</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	340	162
2	Andhra Pradesh	—	159
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3	—
4	Assam	423	766
5	Bihar	53,521	84,747
6	Chhattisgarh	3,892	8,131
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	1,02,189	1,03,028
8	Delhi	49,75,113	58,11,947
9	Goa	20,725	30,127
10	Gujarat	1,98,559	2,11,316
11	Haryana	7,09,555	9,33,610
12	Himachal Pradesh	1,17,600	—
13	Jammu & Kashmir	74,094	81,350
14	Jharkhand	21,942	25,666
15	Karnataka	—	—
16	Kerala	30,805	38,250
17	Ladakh	302	92
18	Lakshadweep	1	—
19	Madhya Pradesh	58,836	58,367
20	Maharashtra	6,70,750	8,74,642
21	Meghalaya	149	221
22	Mizoram	1	—
23	Nagaland	7	—
24	Odisha	55	—
25	Punjab	13,836	47,145
26	Rajasthan	1,48,770	2,35,454
27	Sikkim	1,271	1,044
28	Tamil Nadu	4,618	1,290
29	Telangana	60,454	71,038
30	Tripura	5,192	5,494
31	Uttar Pradesh	165	636
32	Uttarakhand	1,56,241	1,85,573
33	West Bengal	46,439	75,010
—	Grand Total	74,75,848	88,85,266