

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6195
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2026

ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES OF PDS

†6195. **SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:**

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

- (a): whether it has come to the notice of the Government that eligible beneficiaries under the Public, Distribution System (PDS) several States including Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are not regularly receiving foodgrains of the prescribed quantity and quality;
- (b): if so, the primary reasons for these discrepancies and the State-wise details thereof;
- (c): whether it is also a fact that poor, needy and eligible families are facing hardships due to Irregularities, corruption, bogus ration cards and technical glitches related to Aadhaar seeding;
- (d): if so, the details of the Government's action plan to resolve these issues, enhance transparency and ensure timely and full delivery of foodgrains to beneficiaries; and
- (e): whether the Government proposes to include eligible families currently excluded from the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh 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) to (b): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS, issuance of license to Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers, supervision over and monitoring of functioning of FPSs etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

No report has been received from any State/UT (including Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) indicating that the eligible beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System (PDS) are not regularly receiving foodgrains of the prescribed quantity and quality.

(c) to (d): No such hardships have been reported. In order to enhance transparency and ensure timely and full delivery of food grains to beneficiaries, following initiatives have been taken by the Government:-

- Ration cards/beneficiary's database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. 99.7% of ration cards have been Aadhar seeded.
- The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs.
- Online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and Urban area of Dadra & Nagar Haveli which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme).
- The nationwide portability of ration cards, popularly known as One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) has been implemented in all 36 States/UTs, covering all Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) beneficiaries.
- More than 5.50 Lakh (99.8%) out of total 5.51 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country have been automated by installing e-PoS devices (also linked with digital weighing scales) for the distribution of foodgrains through Aadhaar biometric authentication of beneficiaries.
- Further, the Department has formulated and issued a Quality Control Manual to uniformly maintain the quality standards of foodgrains from procurement to its distribution to the eligible beneficiaries through various social security programs of Govt.

(e): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), as per Census 2011, provides for a maximum coverage of 81.35 crore persons. Identification of beneficiaries and issuance of ration cards to them rests with the State/UT Government. Vide TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, all States/UTs have been mandated to regularly review the list of beneficiaries by removing ineligible people, adding eligible ones and doing e-KYC every 5 years; temporarily disable Ration Cards of inactive/duplicate beneficiaries. This exercise is a continuous process which ensures deletion of ineligible beneficiaries and addition of eligible beneficiaries enabling better targeting of rightful beneficiaries.
