

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 540
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2026

BIOMETRIC EXCLUSION ERRORS UNDER ONORC SCHEME

540. SHRI BRIJMOHAN AGRAWAL:

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

- (a): the details of the total funds allocated versus utilized under the Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) during the last three years and the total volume of inter-State transactions;
- (b): the details of the national percentage of Electronic Point of Sale (e-PoS) transaction failures caused by biometric degradation or server latency and the number of manual overrides logged on the Annavitran dashboard;
- (c): the volume of ration card portability failures reported in all the States including Chhattisgarh; and
- (d): the corrective policy measures being implemented by the Government to deploy alternative authentication mechanisms like Iris Recognition Imaging System (IRIS) scanners or offline smart-tokens to eliminate undocumented food exclusion errors among migrant and tribal beneficiaries?

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

- (a): With an objective to sustain the computerised TPDS operations and to introduce new reforms, the Department implemented Central Sector Scheme, namely Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS), in all States/UTs w.e.f. April 2018. The validity of the IM-PDS Scheme was up to 31st March, 2023 and has not been extended thereafter. Consequently, no funds have been released under the IM-PDS Scheme during the last three years.

Further, the details of inter-state transactions during the last three years are as below:

Financial Year	Inter-State Transactions
2023-24	53.66 lakh
2024-25	82.92 lakh
2025-26	92.06 lakh

(b) and (c): No such cases have been reported to the Centre. No beneficiary has been denied food grains due to such reasons.

d): Multiple authentication modes have been provisioned under the Public Distribution System (PDS), including Single Finger, Fusion Finger, IRIS, and Aadhaar-based OTP authentication.

In cases where authentication by one household member fails, other eligible family members linked to the ration card are permitted to authenticate and draw foodgrains. Additionally, a nominee facility has been provided in exceptional cases, allowing beneficiaries to authorise another individual to lift ration on their behalf. The e-PoS devices have a functionality to work in offline mode with limited/ no internet connectivity. The e-PoS devices have to come periodically to the network area to sync the offline e-PoS data with the PDS online system.

All States/UTs have been advised that no genuine beneficiary/household shall be denied from receiving entitled quota of subsidised foodgrains due to failure of biometric/Aadhaar authentication due to network/connectivity/linking related issues, other technical reasons or poor biometrics of the beneficiary.

These measures ensure that eligible beneficiaries are not denied their entitlements.
