

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 599  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2026

**FOODGRAINS UNDER PDS**

**599. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH CHOUDHARY:**

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

- (a): whether the Government is aware of the fact that complaints like leakage, irregularities and benefits to ineligible beneficiaries continue to be received regarding the distribution of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) in some parts of the country;
- (b): whether Aadhaar authentication, E-PoS machines, end-to-end computerization, GPS tracking and other digital systems are being expanded by the Government to increase the effectiveness of PDS, ensure transparency and effectively control leakages and corruption;
- (c): the details of complaints received regarding irregularities in PDS, enquiries conducted, action taken against the culprits and guidelines issued to the States during the last three years;
- (d): whether Government is contemplating introducing any new policy or corrective measures to ensure timely and transparent supply of foodgrains to the beneficiaries and to further reduce leakages; and
- (e): 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) to (e): 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. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). 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 dealers, supervision over and monitoring of functioning of FPSs etc. rest with the concerned State/ UT Governments.

Helpline number 1967/1800-State series number is operational in all the States/ UTs for contacting and redressal of the complaints in Public Distribution System and filing any type of complaints by the intended beneficiaries. As and when complaints related to PDS, including leakage, irregularities and benefits to ineligible beneficiaries are received in this Department from any source, they are sent to State/ UT Governments concerned for inquiry and an appropriate action.

An offence committed in violation of the provisions of TPDS (Control) Order, 2015 is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, the Order empowers State/ UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders.

The details of steps taken to modernize and increase the effectiveness of the public distribution mechanism are as follows:

- i. Digitisation & Aadhaar seeding: Ration cards/beneficiary database is 100% digitised in all States/UTs; 99.7% of ration cards are Aadhaar-seeded, eliminating bogus/duplicate cards.
- ii. Transparency & grievance redressal: Transparency portals and online grievance redressal/toll-free helplines operational in all States/UTs.
- iii. Online allocation & supply chain computerisation: Online allocation implemented in all States/UTs; supply chain computerised in 31 States/UTs (except Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer).
- iv. ePoS-based Aadhaar authentication at FPS level: 5.50 lakh (99.8%) of 5.51 lakh Fair Price Shops automated with ePoS devices, ensuring biometric authentication of beneficiaries at the point of distribution and curbing diversion.
- v. One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC): Nationwide portability implemented across all 36 States/UTs, covering all PMGKAY beneficiaries; over 221 crore portability transactions recorded to date, reducing exclusion and duplicate entitlement claims.

Further, Food Corporation of India (FCI) under the supervision of Department of Food & Public Distribution has developed a robust monitoring mechanism for transportation of food grains using Road Transport Contractors (RTCs) from dispatching depot till receiving depot. In this regard, a GPS enabled live tracking solution viz. Vehicle Location Tracking System (VLTS) has been developed to enable e-surveillance of food grains in-transit (Rail as well as Road) and also curb the possibilities of pilferage of foodgrains enroute.

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