

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.434  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2024

**DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS THROUGH PDS SYSTEM**

434 SHRI N K PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to ensure the distribution of foodgrains through Public Distribution System (PDS) without obstruction;
- (b) if so, the details of action taken thereon;
- (c) the details regarding the action taken on the disruption of supply of food grains through Public Distribution System in Kerala;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to increase the remuneration to the ration retailers in Kerala;
- (e) if so, the details of action taken thereon;
- (f) whether it comes to the notice of the Government that supply of foodgrains in Kerala was disrupted on account of the agitation of ration dealers in Kerala; and
- (g) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

**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 Government ensures the distribution of foodgrains through Public Distribution System (PDS) without obstruction.

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To improve the efficiency & transparency of the distribution of foodgrains system, under the technology driven PDS reforms, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs, 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 (except UTs of Chandigarh and Puducherry which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs. So far, nearly 5.41 Lakh out of total 5.43 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country (including the State of Kerala) have been automated by installing ePoS devices for seamless distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.

(c): As per the NFSA Act 2013, the responsibility for distributing foodgrains and ensuring a robust distribution system lies with the concerned State Government.

(d) & (e): Central Government has no role to play in determining the actual rate of fair price shop dealers' margin/ commission/ honorarium etc. The Central Government only provides the assistance to States/UTs for meeting the expenditure towards intra-State movement & handling of foodgrains and fair price shop dealers' margin under the NFSA in accordance with the provisions of Food Security (Assistance to State Governments) Rules, 2015 which inter-alia provides for norms of expenditure and pattern of central sharing. In order to ensure viability of Fair Price Shops, the norms of FPS Dealers margin was enhanced w.e.f. April 2022 as per the details given below:

Category of States	Component of FPS margin	Pre-revised norms (Rate in rupee per quintal)	Revised norms (Rate in rupee per quintal)
General States/UTs	Transportation & handling	65	70
	FPS Dealers Margin	70	90
	Additional margin	17	21
Special Sates/UTS	Transportation & handling	100	105
	FPS Dealers Margin	143	180
	Additional margin	17	26

State Governments are free to fix the actual rates, which can be higher than the norms specified in the rules. Central assistance will be limited to the rates specified in the Rules or the actual average rates for the State as a whole, at which the expenditure was actually incurred by the State Government, whichever is lower.

At present, no proposal for further enhancement of margin is under consideration by the Government.

(f) & (g): No complaint regarding disruption of supply of foodgrains in Kerala on account of the agitation of ration dealers has been reported.

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