

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1676  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2025**

**EFFICIENCY AND TRANSPARENCY IN PDS**

**1676. SMT. GENIBEN NAGAJI THAKOR:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking measures to improve the efficiency and transparency of the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb leakages, fake ration cards and ensure proper delivery of foodgrains to beneficiaries;
- (c) the details and the current status of implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 across States/UTs;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to include more beneficiaries under the food subsidy schemes in view of rising inflation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
**(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)**

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(a) & (b): As part of the technology driven Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) reforms, with the aim to improve the efficiency and transparency in the TPDS, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Further, 99.7% ration cards are Aadhaar seeded in the country. Nearly 5.41 Lakh (99.6%) out of total 5.43 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries.

(c): The National food Security Act, 2013 is being implemented in all the States/UTs aims to supplement the food requirements of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. While Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains, per household per month, Priority Households (PHH) are entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month free of cost. The Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. At present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, 80.56 crore beneficiaries are receiving foodgrains free of cost.

(d)& (e): Section 9 of the Act provides that the percentage coverage under the Targeted Public Distribution System in rural and urban areas for each State shall be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered in the State shall be calculated based on the population estimates as per the census of which the relevant figures have been published. Therefore, any revision in the coverage under the NFSA shall be possible only after the relevant data of the next population Census is published.

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