

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3184
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH MARCH, 2025

SMART PDS SCHEME

†3184. SHRI BHARAT SINGH KUSHWAH:

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

- (a) the details and the name of the districts and States where the Smart PDS scheme of the Union Government has been started as a pilot project;
- (b) the difference between Smart PDS scheme and present PDS scheme;
- (c) the benefit of Smart (PDS) to the beneficiaries, the public and the department along with the shortcomings in operation of current PDS;
- (d) whether the Smart PDS scheme is likely to be implemented across the country;
- (e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (f) the name of the body through which it will be run?

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

(a) & (b): This Department is implementing the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) “Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS)” for the development and implementation of advanced integrated supply chain software in all States/UTs. At present, the SMART-PDS is in development phase. The project was started by NIC from October 2024 and the application is expected to be launched in phases from April 2025 onwards.

The SMART-PDS scheme envisages to strengthen the technology infrastructure in Public Distribution System (PDS) to lead the technology driven reforms and transformative change in the entire PDS ecosystem covering NFSA and State schemes. Thus, SMART-PDS is launched to sustain the Information Technology-led Reforms to be brought in the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) Operations by overcoming the state level technological limitations of PDS operations in all States/UTs in respect of IT Hardware, Software and to institutionalize an integrated Central System covering all PDS related operations across all States/UTs.

(c) All PDS beneficiaries of the country benefit from the modernization efforts of the SMART PDS system. At present, against the total intended coverage of 81.35 Crore under NFSA, 80.56 Crore persons are receiving food grains free of cost under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), which comes to about 99.03% of total coverage.

(d) to (f): The SMART-PDS scheme has been launched by this Department and to be implemented in all States/UTs. At present, this Department has signed MoUs with 35 States/UTs (except Tamil Nadu, which is under process) for the SMART-PDS scheme. Further, the development of SMART PDS is under progress and the application is expected to be launched in phases from April 2025 onwards. NIC is the technical partner and also developer for the SMART-PDS.
