

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1497
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2024

SMART-PDS

†1497 SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:
SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:
SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has launched any scheme for modernization and improvement through technology in the Public Distribution System (Smart-PDS) to prevent foodgrain pilferage and increase the efficiency of the distribution chain;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the date on which it was implemented;
- (c) the names of the States which have signed the MoU to be part of the said scheme; and
- (d) the extent to which this scheme is capable of preventing food pilferage and increasing the efficiency of the distribution chain?

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 & implementation of advanced integrated supply chain software in States/UTs. Under this scheme, provisions have been made to replace existing servers/ data centers by leveraging cloud infrastructure.

The above scheme envisages to strengthen the technology infrastructure in Public Distribution System (PDS) which will 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, Technical Manpower and to institutionalize an integrated Central System covering all PDS related operations across all States/UTs. The scheme is being implemented in collaboration with all States/UTs, with a total cost of Rs. 349.9 crore for a period of 3 years from FY 2023-24 to 2025-26.

(c): Department has signed MoU with 35 States/UTs (except Tamil Nadu) so far the above scheme.

(d): Under the scheme, 99.8% Ration Cards are seeded with Aadhaar number at national level. Due to installation of ePoS devices at the FPSs, at present, around 98% of transactions in the country are being done through biometric authentication on the monthly basis, bringing transparency and efficiency in the system.

By creating ICT-enabled system under SMART-PDS, it shall improve efficiency of public delivery, enhanced reach to beneficiaries and timely delivering the public services in more transparent manner. These approaches improve delivery through (i) improving the quality of information, (ii) reducing complexity (iii) making access more convenient and simpler.
