

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1549

ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012

COMPUTERISATION OF PDS

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

(a) whether the Government has taken steps for computerisation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) including Fair Price Shops to bring transparency in the system;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein;

(c) whether the Government is also considering to adopt Information Technology including Radio Frequency Identification and Biometric devices to monitor the distribution of foodgrains and food products under the Public Distribution System (PDS); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): All States/UTs have been requested to undertake end-to-end computerization of Public Distribution System(PDS). End-to-end Computerization of PDS includes Fair Price Shop(FPS) Automation, Computerization of Supply-Chain, Digitization of Ration Card database, SMS/E-mail alerts on dispatch and delivery of foodgrains, setting up of Transparency Portal, Toll-free number for grievance redressal etc.

Among various measures taken by the Government, detailed guidelines for end-to-end Computerization of PDS have been issued to all States/UTs covering various aspects such as the components of computerization, software options, institutional mechanism, action plans of States, financial support, etc. Details of PDS application software have been sent by the Department to all States/UTs. The application software prepared by National Informatics Centre(NIC) has been shared by it with State Information Officers(SIOs) of NIC. Detailed directions to all States/UTs have also been conveyed for achieving prescribed milestones. Infrastructural and financial support would also be provided to States/UTs for end-to-end Computerization of PDS.

(C)&(d): End-to-end Computerisation of PDS inter-alia envisages use of biometric information of the beneficiaries for their identification for issuance of foodgrains, weeding out of bogus and ineligible ration cards/units, etc. However, there is no specific proposal for use of Radio Frequency Identification devices.