

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:745
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012
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 is planning to transfer food entitlements to ration cardholders through an electronic system once the Public Distribution System (PDS) is linked to the Unique ID or Aadhar`s Central data repository;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the proposed online scheme; and
- (c) the extent to which fake ration cardholders/beneficiaries are likely to be unearthed by the said online PDS scheme?

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), which includes Fair Price Shop (FPS) Automation, Computerisation 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.

Under the guidelines issued by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, States/ UTs are encouraged to include PDS related fields in the data collection exercise being undertaken by various UIDAI appointed Registrars as part of the UID (Aadhaar) enrolment. As per these guidelines, as far as possible, States/ UTs Governments should also link the process of electronic authentication of delivery and payments at the FPS level with Aadhaar registration. This would help in streamlining the process of biometric collection as well as authentication of beneficiary at the time of commodity issuance at FPS.

(c) : Subsequent to digitization of ration card database in States/UTs, bogus/ineligible cards are expected to be eliminated during the process of de-duplication. Hence, computerization of PDS will ensure proper identification of beneficiaries and distribution of foodgrains only to the intended beneficiaries.