

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3714
ANSWERED ON:04.09.2012
SMART CARDS UNDER PDS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued smart cards in place of ration cards in some States for providing foodgrains through the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits accrued therefrom;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend this scheme to the remaining States also;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of allocation to be made under the PDS during the current year, State-wise?

Answer

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

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

As part of FPS Automation, some States/UTs namely, Chandigarh UT, Haryana, Odisha, Puducherry, etc. have reported issuance of PDS commodities on pilot basis using Smart Cards wherein existing ration cards are replaced by Smart Cards. These Smart Cards have biometric features of adult members of beneficiary families, based on which verification of the beneficiary family takes place and only thereafter, the essential commodities are issued to the intended beneficiaries from the fair price shops.

Under end-to-end Computerization of PDS taken up in all States/UTs, the exact model of FPS Automation, that is, bar-coded ration cards, food coupons, Smart Cards, etc. would be finalised by remaining States/UTs as per their requirements.

(e) : State-wise details of allocation of foodgrains under TPDS during 2012-13 is enclosed as Annexure.