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

STARRED QUESTION NO:349
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2012
LINKING OF PDS WITH AADHAR
Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Saroj Smt. Sushila

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to link the Public Distribution System (PDS) with the Aadhar database/cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the modalities worked out in this regard; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof and the time by which it is proposed to be implemented?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 349 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 18.12.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a): Under the Plan Scheme on End-to-End Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations, States/UTs are required to digitize their beneficiaries' databases. In the process, States/UTs have been requested to seed the 'Aadhaar' numbers wherever available into the digitized database of the beneficiaries.

(b): Under the guidelines issued by the Department for computerization of TPDS, States/UTs have been asked to include TPDS related fields in the data collection exercise being undertaken by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) appointed Registrars as part of the 'Aadhaar' enrolment. Further, for digitization of the TPDS ration cards/beneficiary database, Department has issued ration card capture form/ data dictionary prepared by National Informatics Centre (NIC) to all States/ UTs. These data standards also have the provision of seeding of 'Aadhaar' numbers into the ration card database.

(c): Subsequent to linking of ration cards/beneficiary database with 'Aadhaar' number, bogus/ineligible ration cards are expected to be eliminated during the process of de-duplication. Further, the use of 'Aadhaar' based authentication at FPS level will ensure proper identification of beneficiaries and distribution of foodgrains only to the intended beneficiaries, thereby reducing leakages/diversions, etc.
Component-I of the scheme comprises activities, namely, digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanism. Under the scheme, States/UTs have been requested to complete the work of digitization of ration cards/beneficiary database alongwith seeding of 'Aadhaar' numbers by March 2013.