

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:275  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013  
SMART CARDS FOR PDS  
Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal

**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 of the States to provide foodgrains through the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the benefits accruing therefrom;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend this scheme to other States also;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the allocations made under PDS during the current year, Statewise?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) Government has initiated implementation of Component-I of the scheme for End-to-end Computerisation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations, which comprises digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanisms.

As part of Fair Price Shop (FPS) automation, some States/UTs namely, Chandigarh UT, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Odisha, Puducherry, etc. have reported issuance of TPDS commodities on pilot basis using Smart Cards wherein existing ration cards are replaced by Smart Cards. These Smart Cards have biometric features of 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 FPSs.

The exact model of FPS automation, that is, Aadhaar based authentication through Point of Sale (PoS) devices, Smart Cards, etc. would be finalised by the Government in consultation with States/UTs and taken up in the next phase.

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