

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5551  
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013  
PDS LINKAGE WITH AADHAAR  
Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias

**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 Aadhaar database/cards and also provide direct cash on its basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; 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) & (b): 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. Department has also issued ration card capture form/ data dictionary prepared by National Informatics Centre (NIC) to all States/ UTs. These data standards have the provision of seeding of 'Aadhaar' numbers into the ration card database.

Further, 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.

However, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for providing cash directly to beneficiaries under TPDS.

(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 Plan 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 by March 2013 and Computerisation of Supply Chain Management by October 2013.