

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:109
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015
PDS LINKAGE WITH AADHAAR .
Venugopal Shri K. C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken adequate steps to stem corruption, malpractices and irregularities in the implementation of the Public Distribution System and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government also proposes to link the Public Distribution System with Aadhaar and/or introduce onetime password system or bar coded ration cards, if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue to the beneficiaries;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes a uniform model based on either Aadhaar card, one-time password system or bar coding for the entire country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 109 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.03.2015 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): For better targeting of food subsidies, removing bogus ration cards, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains, check on leakage/diversion of foodgrains, introducing public accountability, etc. Government has taken various steps for proper implementation of the TPDS in States/UTs. In order to maintain supplies and to secure availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified by the Government which mandates the States /UTs to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. Further, the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 prescribes essential reforms in the TPDS. Government has taken up with States/UTs for implementing measures such as door-step delivery of foodgrains, correct identification of beneficiaries; improve foodgrains offtake, monitoring and vigilance, and improving viability of fair price shop operations. Best practices among States/UTs in TPDS implementation are shared for use by other States/UTs. With a view to modernize the system, the Government has initiated a Plan Scheme on End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS operations on cost sharing basis with States/UTs which would facilitate digitization of ration cards / beneficiary and other databases, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievances redressal mechanism.

(b) to (d): Under the Plan Scheme on End-to-end Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations, States/UTs are inter-alia required to digitize their ration card/beneficiaries database. With a view to de-duplicate the beneficiaries database, States/UTs have also been requested to seed Aadhaar numbers in digitised database.

At present there is no proposal for a uniform model based on either Aadhaar card, onetime password system or bar-coded ration card.