

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5549  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015  
IDENTIFICATION OF PDS BENEFICIARIES  
Hemamalini Smt.

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to notify revised poverty estimates on the basis of which States can undertake proper identification of beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System (PDS)/National Food Security Act (NFSA) and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Government is considering any proposal to use biometric technology to identify the beneficiaries and weed out ineligible ones and if so, their details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a): Government has notified the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) on 10.09.2013, which inter alia provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population of the country for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Under NFSA, coverage under TPDS has been delinked from poverty estimates and corresponding to the above coverage at the all India level, State-wise coverage has been determined by the Planning Commission on the basis of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data for 2011-12 on consumption expenditure. Under the NFSA, the identification of eligible households is to be done by the respective State/UT Governments. As all States/UTs are required to implement NFSA, there is no proposal under consideration to notify revised poverty estimates for existing TPDS.

(b): Under the scheme of End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations, all States/UTs are inter-alia to digitise the ration card/beneficiary data as per e-Gov standards and also to seed available Aadhaar numbers, which are linked to biometric data. This will help in weeding out bogus/ineligible beneficiaries and including the eligible beneficiaries.