

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) For bringing transparency in distribution of foodgrains and real time monitoring of the distribution through the PDS portal, States/ Union Territories have been asked to install Point of Sale (PoS) devices at fair price shops (FPS) for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of transaction of foodgrains. As per reports received from States/UTs, there are about 1.11 lakh operational PoS devices in different States/UTs, including Tamil Nadu. However, transactions details in respect of all the PoS devices, including those installed in Tamil Nadu, are not available in real time in the public domain.

#### **Digitization of ration cards for DBT scheme**

1523. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has attained 100 per cent digitization of ration cards for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) as per the National Food Security Act;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the mandatory installation of e-Point of Sale machines has been done for the distribution of subsidy grains in all the States implementing DBT?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The entire ration card database in all the States/UTs has been digitised.

(c) For bringing transparency and to check leakages and diversion of foodgrains, States/UTs have been asked to opt for any of the two models of Direct Benefit Transfer - Cash transfer of food subsidy into the bank account of beneficiaries or fair price shop (FPS) automation, which involves installation of Point of Sale (PoS) device at FPS, for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of transactions. The cash transfer of food subsidy is being implemented in 3 UTs namely Chandigarh, Puducherry and partially in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. For remaining areas, States/UTs have been requested to expedite the pace of FPS automation. Out of 5.32 lakh FPSs across the country, about 1.11 lakh FPSs have been automated.

#### **Introduction of E-warranty system**

1524. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to introduce e-warranty system to protect consumers for cases where they misplace warranties/guarantees in physical forms;