

Benefit of PDS through Aadhaar-linked biometric authentication system

1829. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the Supreme Court judgement in 2015, making Aadhaar optional;

(b) whether Public Distribution System (PDS) data from Rajasthan and Jharkhand show that up to 30 per cent of beneficiaries are not being able to receive entitlements through the Aadhaar-linked biometric authentication system; and

(c) whether Government has made it mandatory to possess an Aadhaar number for accessing subsidised foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As informed by the State Government of Rajasthan, the total number of Fair Price Shops in the State is 25,732 FPSs and ePoS have been installed at all FPSs. Out of which 25,597 ePoS are operating successfully and 135 are having poor net connectivity. In the month of February, 2017 a total of 2.02 lakh MT wheat has been distributed through 73.74 lakh PoS transactions. Thus, 78% of the total NFSA beneficiaries have been provided wheat through PoS transactions and there is an alternative arrangement for the rest of the beneficiaries. As per the information furnished by State Government of Jharkhand, the total number of beneficiaries which have lifted their entitlement in December, 2016 and January, 2017 are 47,55,313 and 42,79,989 respectively with an average of 45,17,651. Thus, 92.50% beneficiaries have received their entitlement through ePoS using Aadhaar or OTP. In 45 control blocks which are not using e-PoS, beneficiaries are getting their entitlement manually. Those beneficiaries who do not have their Aadhaar number seeded in ration card can get it done by using e-PoS and get their Aadhaar verified in 7 days. State Government has also issued guidelines to all districts that not a single beneficiary who does not have any Aadhaar number or mobile number facility should be left out from the system on this basis.

(c) In pursuance of the provisions of the Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 the Department has issued a notification dated 8th February, 2017 for the use of Aadhaar as identity document for delivery of services/benefits/subsidies that simplifies the

Government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency and enables beneficiaries to get their entitlement directly in a convenient and seamless manner and Aadhaar obviates the need for producing multiple documents to prove one's identity. An individual eligible to receive the subsidised food grains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFS A and having valid Ration Cards issued by State Governments/UT Administration is required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. Any new eligible beneficiary who is selected by State Governments/UT Administration for receiving subsidised food grains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA is also required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. All such eligible beneficiaries entitled to receive subsidised food grains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA, who do not possess the Aadhaar number or, are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, but are desirous of availing subsidised food grains/Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA are required to make application for Aadhaar enrolment by 30th June, 2017, provided he or she is entitled to obtain Aadhaar as per Section 3 of the said Act.

Cash transfer to accounts of beneficiaries for food security

1830. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the details of the total number and percentage of accounts in which cash transfers have been made for the purpose of food security, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): Cash transfer of food subsidy scheme is being implemented in Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, under which food subsidy is being transferred directly into the bank accounts of all the identified eligible households. Details of such households in the three Union Territories, which received cash transfer of food subsidy into their bank accounts in March, 2017 is as under:—

Name of the Union Territory	No. of identified eligible households which received cash transfer of food subsidy
Chandigarh	60209
Dadra and Nagar Haveli (partially)	8968
Puducherry	162456