

**Deaths due to inefficiency of PDS**

675. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the deaths of children in Haryana and Punjab because of inefficiency of Public Distribution System (PDS); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures being taken up for the efficiency of PDS and the details of funds allocated to States in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for allocation and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. State Governments of Haryana and Punjab have not reported any such incidence of deaths of children because of inefficiency of Public Distribution System (PDS).

(b) Does not arise.

**Quantity fraud in PDS**

676. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ghost beneficiaries removed from database after linking of Aadhaar with ration card, since 2014, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether Ministry is aware of the magnitude of 'quantity fraud' where legitimate beneficiaries are given only a fraction of their entitlement by the PDS dealer;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether Ministry is also aware that linking Aadhaar with ration card is leading to denial of entitlements to legitimate beneficiaries while having no impact on 'quantity fraud'; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to curb 'quantity fraud'?