

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'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (e) With the aim of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and to address the challenges such as leakages and diversion of foodgrains, elimination of fake and bogus ration cards etc., Government is implementing a scheme on 'End-to-End Computerization of PDS Operations' in association with all States/UTs. Under the scheme, beside digitisation of ration cards/beneficiary records, the seeding of Aadhaar numbers is also being done to identify the duplicate/bogus ration cards from the system, and to enable rightful targeting of food subsidies. So far about 86% ration cards have been seeded with Aadhaar number of at least one member of the household. As a result of use of technology and various reasons such as ineligible/bogus/duplicate, death/migration, change in economic status of beneficiary household, etc. the States/UTs have been able to delete a total of about 2.51 crore ration cards during the years 2014 to 2018 and are issuing new ration cards to rightfully eligible persons/households. Beneficiary-wise information is not maintained by this Department. State-wise and year-wise number of duplicate/bogus ration cards removed from the PDS database is given in Statement (*See below*).

Further, as part of the scheme electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices are being installed at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for issuance of entitled foodgrains to the beneficiaries, recording of sale transactions and authentication of beneficiaries. Till now, ePoS devices are installed in only about 73% FPSs across the country. The features of the ePoS devices also provide for printing of sales receipts/announcement giving details of the commodity and quantity issued to the beneficiaries, to ensure transparent distribution of entitled quantity.

As regard seeding of Aadhaar numbers with ration cards, the Department as per its notification dated 08.02.2017 (as amended from time to time) issued under Section-7 of Aadhaar Act, has extended the timeline up to 31.03.2019. This Department has also issued clear instructions to all States/UTs that, no eligible beneficiary should be denied from his/her entitled quota of subsidised foodgrains due to non-availability of Aadhaar number/failure of biometric authentication/any other technical reasons.

Statement

State/UT-wise and year-wise number of deleted ration cards during 2014 to 2018

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	545,987	129,202	475,023	5,449		1,155,661
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	37	-			37
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,059	115	4,396	56		5,626

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
4.	Assam	-	-	108,681	42,077	135,250	286,008
5.	Bihar	21,712	16,401	6,291			44,404
6.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	88		88
7.	Chhattisgarh	710,000	143,000	150,000	150,000		1,153,000
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	549			549
9.	Daman and Diu	-	262	101	272	4,898	5,533
10.	Delhi	-	38,496	22,696	3,969	486	65,647
11.	Goa	93	145,471	10,115			155,679
12.	Gujarat	64,079	45,833	22,119	18,965	95,659	246,655
13.	Haryana	22,903	43,515	19,648	29,686	291,926	407,678
14.	Himachal Pradesh	235	-	1,148	172	56,858	58,413
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	640	3,325	50,709	664		55,338
16.	Jharkhand	19	7,914	446,025			453,958
17.	Karnataka	664,755	761,326	144,432	326,382	4,572	1,901,467
18.	Kerala	57	-	-	-	3,314	3,371
19.	Lakshadweep	76	872	442			1,390
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1,313	-	389,124	184,673		575,110
21.	Maharashtra	85,160	820,780	1,155,908			2,061,848
22.	Manipur	-	-	-	336		336
23.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	370	370
24.	Mizoram	47	53	101	559		760
25.	Nagaland	3,247	-	-	8,521		11,768
26.	Odisha	-	-	650,471	35,740		686,211
27.	Puducherry	10,629	56,121	9,886			76,636
28.	Punjab	93,267	-	-	69,945	34,972	198,184
29.	Rajasthan	-	26,329	1,371,230	73,110	8,016	1,478,685
30.	Sikkim	-	-	11,714	1,126		12,840
31.	Tamil Nadu	96,406	114,175	84,470	9,089	-	304,140
32.	Telangana	1,171,354	83,048	521,790			1,776,192
33.	Tripura	11,814	66,236	92,728			170,778
34.	Uttar Pradesh	19,117	233,847	2,586,541	4,441,748		7,281,253
35.	Uttarakhand	-	111,367	89,984	318,718	126,268	646,337
36.	West Bengal	1,677,311	2,184,152	-			3,861,463
GRAND TOTAL		5,201,280	5,031,877	8,426,322	5,721,345	762,589	25,143,413

Note: West Bengal has individual Ration Cards system.