

(c) As on 10.07.2019, a buffer stock of about 55,741 metric tonnes (MT) of onions has been built under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) for appropriate market intervention to help moderate prices and improve availability of onions during lean season.

**Unavailability of foodgrains to poor people due to implementation
of biometric system**

†3104. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poor are unable to avail subsidised foodgrains easily under Antyodaya Yojana after implementation of biometric system;

(b) whether Government is aware of such incidents, where unavailability of internet is a big obstacle in implementation of biometric system resulting in unavailability of foodgrains to the poor for months which drives them on the verge of starvation; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (c) The Department has issued notification under the Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act 2016 on 08/02/2017 (as amended from time to time) for the use of Aadhaar in PDS for the distribution of subsidized foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), who do not possess Aadhaar number or, are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, but are desirous of availing the subsidized foodgrains are required to make an application for Aadhaar enrolment by 30/09/2019.

Further, as reported by some States/UTs, there are few areas/FPS locations with poor internet connectivity / temporary unavailability of network which may result in failure of biometric/Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries. Owing to such scenarios, the Department of Food and Public Distribution has issued clear instructions to all State/UT Governments *vide* letter dated 24.10.2017 that in case of failure of biometric authentication due to network/connectivity/linking issue or due to poor biometric of the beneficiary or other technical reasons, the beneficiaries/ration card holders including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) shall be provided subsidized foodgrains.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.