

**Automation of fair price shops**

3105. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether automation of fair price shops is completed along with Aadhaar authentication;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proper caution is being taken to disburse PDS rice to people with fading fingerprints; and

(d) if so, the details of fair price shops and shops equipped with automation facilities, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (d) Under the scheme on End-to-End Computerisation of PDS Operations, the automation of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) is also being done by means of installing electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices in all FPSs for electronic record keeping of all sale transactions and unique identification of eligible/targeted beneficiary for the delivery of highly subsidised foodgrains through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication or other mechanisms as specified by the Central Government from time to time. So far, out of nearly 5.34 lakh FPSs across the country, about 4.12 lakh FPSs have been automated. Details showing State/UT-wise number of total and automated FPSs are given in the Statement (*See below*). Further, as per the information available from States/UTs, the Aadhaar authentication facility is not available in Tamil Nadu and partially in the State of Chhattisgarh which are having ePoS devices in mostly all FPSs.

Department has issued instructions to all State/UT Governments *vide* letter dated 24.10.2017 to ensure that owing to failure of biometric/Aadhaar due to poor biometrics/ change of finger-prints of beneficiary and any other technical reasons, etc. no genuine beneficiary shall be denied from receiving his/her entitled foodgrains under NFSA. Further, the instructions were re-iterated to all States/UTs *vide* letter dated 08.11.2018 that no genuine beneficiaries shall be denied of foodgrains due to Aadhaar related issues.

**Statement***Status of End-to-End Computerization of PDS Operations**Scheme as on 08.07.2019*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Fair Price Shops (FPSs)	No. of FPSs with Operational ePoS
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28,936	28,936
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	479	459
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,943	25
4.	Assam	38,237	0
5.	Bihar	41,483	62
6.	Chandigarh	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	12,304	11,971
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	63	63
9.	Daman and Diu	51	51
10.	Delhi	2,254	0
11.	Goa	456	456
12.	Gujarat	17,210	17,210
13.	Haryana	9,526	9,526
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4,934	4,934
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	6,411	6,411
16.	Jharkhand	25,532	25,532
17.	Karnataka	19,967	19,581
18.	Kerala	14,374	14,335
19.	Lakshadweep	39	39
20.	Madhya Pradesh	24,732	24,619

1	2	3	4
21.	Maharashtra	52,532	52,532
22.	Manipur	2,682	0
23.	Meghalaya	4,736	10
24.	Mizoram	1,252	0
25.	Nagaland	1,691	0
26.	Odisha	12,577	12,577
27.	Puducherry	0	0
28.	Punjab	17,525	17,525
29.	Rajasthan	26,745	26,063
30.	Sikkim	1,362	1,352
31.	Tamil Nadu	34,776	34,776
32.	Telangana	17,170	17,170
33.	Tripura	1,806	1,806
34.	Uttar Pradesh	80,493	80,493
35.	Uttarakhand	9,908	3,271
36.	West Bengal	20,806	366
TOTAL		5,34,992	4,12,151

#### **Starvation deaths in Jharkhand**

3106. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of starvation deaths in Jharkhand in last five months;

(b) whether it is a fact that such deaths occurred because of non-availability of entitled ration;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and