

Computerization of fair price shops

†2948. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is working on computerization of all fair price shops across the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the additional steps taken by Government to ensure direct benefit transfer to the beneficiaries under Public Distribution System (PDS); and
- (c) whether Government proposes to make Aadhaar card necessary instead of mandatory for availing subsidized foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) Department in association with all States/UTs is implementing a scheme on 'End to End Computerization of PDS Operations' under PDS reforms. The scheme includes automation of Fair Price Shop (FPS) automation by installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at FPSs for electronic recording of sale transactions and authentication of beneficiaries at the FPS, etc. Out of total 5.35 lakh FPSs across the country, about 4.58 lakh FPSs have been automated so far.

(b) Department has notified the 'Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015' under the National Food Security Act, 2013 on 21-08-2015 for providing food subsidy in cash directly into the bank accounts of entitled households/beneficiaries to enable them to purchase foodgrains from open market. The Direct Benefit (Cash) Transfer scheme is implemented in 3 UTs namely Chandigarh, Puducherry and in urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

(c) Department, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targetted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, has issued a notification dated 8th February, 2017 (as amended from time to time) for use of Aadhaar for delivery of subsidised foodgrains under NFSA. An individual/household eligible to receive the subsidised foodgrains under NFSA and having valid Ration Card 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

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subsidised foodgrains under NFSA is also required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication.

As per last amendment, the eligible beneficiaries who do not possess the Aadhaar number or, are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, but are desirous of availing subsidised foodgrains under NFSA are required to make application for Aadhaar enrolment by 31st December, 2019.

Starvation deaths

†2949. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Ministry has laid down the definition of deaths caused by starvation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and parameters adopted for laying down the said definition;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of incidents reported regarding deaths due to starvation during last four years, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (e) whether the Ministry has analysed the reasons responsible for starvation deaths, in spite of existing system of distribution of subsidized rations to the poor through PDS, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (d) The Department of Food & Public Distribution has not defined starvation or hunger death. No State Government/UT Administration has reported any incident of starvation death during the last four years. Media reports alleging starvation deaths from time to time have not been substantiated.

- (e) Does not arise in view of the (a) to (d) above.

Procurement of wheat in Madhya Pradesh

†2950. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any procurement limit could be set for the procurement of fair

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