

setup to lodge complaint, if any, by farmers.

(c) The details of paddy (in term of rice) production in Uttar Pradesh during last three years is as under:—

Kharif Marketing Season	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Quantity (in LMT)	137.54	132.74	155.45

Linking of Aadhaar with PDS

†2318. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of beneficiaries linked to Aadhaar under the Public Distribution System (PDS) at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that consumers are facing many inconveniences owing to the mandatory requirement of Aadhaar and thumb impression in PDS;

(c) the types of inconveniences faced by beneficiaries due to mandatory requirement of Aadhaar and thumb impression that have come to the notice of Government; and

(d) the reduction in number of Ration Card beneficiaries after linking PDS with Aadhaar and the number of fake beneficiaries out of them, along with the actual beneficiaries whose Aadhaar Cards have not been made yet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) Under PDS reforms, at present nearly 90% of Total 23.4 crore ration cards under NFSA have been seeded with Aadhaar number of at least one member of the beneficiary household.

(b) and (c) So far, the use of Aadhaar/biometric authentication of beneficiaries for distribution of subsidized foodgrains have not been made mandatory by the Department.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

However, in pursuance of the provisions under Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, this Department has issued a notification dated 08/02/2017 (as amended from time to time). As per the latest amendment to said notification, the timeline given to States/UTs for linking of Aadhaar numbers of beneficiaries with all ration cards has been extended up to 31/03/2020. Further, this Department *vide* letters dated 24/10/2017 and 08/11/2018 has issued advisories to all States/UTs that no genuine beneficiaries/households shall be denied from their entitled foodgrains under NFSA, only on the ground of not possessing an Aadhaar number, or due to any technical failure of ePoS device including failure of biometric/Aadhaar authentication of beneficiary owing to network/connectivity/linking issues.

(d) Due to computerization and use of information technology in PDS operations, *i.e.* digitization of ration cards/beneficiaries' database, online detection of ineligible/duplicate ration cards, migration/deaths of beneficiaries, de-duplication with Aadhaar and during the run-up to and implementation of NFSA, the States/UTs have been able to remove a of about Total 2.98 crore ineligible ration cards since 2013 till date.

Implementation of NFSA

2319. DR. BANDA PRAKASH:

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA) by the States/UTs in the country;

(b) whether any grievances have been received on the implementation of NFSA in the recent past;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the remedial action taken/being taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is being implemented in all the States/Union