

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 939
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2018

AADHAAR BASED BIOMETRIC
AUTHENTICATION IN PDS

939. DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many workers were reportedly denied rations from the Public Distribution System (PDS) shops for failing to have Aadhaar based biometric authentication and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the people who have been denied ration are mostly elderly persons who could not procure food after the Aadhaar enabled point of sales machine could not authenticate their biometrics, if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the number of point of sale equipment in Fair Price Shops for the identification of beneficiaries under the scheme of automation of Fair Price Shops that has been set up in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide incentives to the States that achieve cent per cent implementation of the scheme and if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the steps taken by the Government to achieve cent per cent coverage of the scheme?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (b): The Notification No. S.O. 371(E) dated 08.02.2017 issued by the Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) under Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016

(Aadhaar Act), *inter alia* provides that the individual beneficiaries having Ration Cards under NFSA to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication to receive subsidies under NFSA and those who do not possess Aadhaar, to make application for Aadhaar enrolment. The notification further provides that till the Aadhaar is assigned to the beneficiaries of subsidies under NFSA, the entitlements under NFSA shall be given to such individuals on production of Ration Card, Aadhaar Enrolment ID slip or copy of his/her request made to State Government for Aadhaar enrolment alongwith copy of any of the 8 documents viz. Voter ID, PAN Card, Passport, Driving License, Certificate of identity having photo issued by Gazetted Officer or Tehsildar, Address Card having name and Photo issued by Department of Post or Kisan Photo Passbook.

The Notification also provides that any member of the eligible household will be entitled to receive entire quantity of subsidized foodgrains or cash transfer of food subsidy under NFSA on behalf of the households if he/she fulfills the aforementioned identification requirement, irrespective of whether all members of the household have had Aadhaar number assigned to them.

The State Governments/UT Admns. have been requested time and again for strict compliance with the above guidelines.

(c) & (d): At present, 3.33 lakh out of 5.27 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) across the country have ePoS devices. As regards financial assistance, Government has approved FPS dealers' margins @ Rs. 87/quintal to State/UT Governments under NFSA, which also includes reimbursement of Rs. 17/quintal for their expenditure towards purchase and operations of ePoS devices at FPSs. Such expenditure is shared between Centre and State/UT Governments on 75:25 basis for Special Category States/UTs and on 50:50 basis for General Category States/UTs.
