

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1682
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2025

FOODGRAINS SUPPLIES BY FCI

1682. SHRI RAKESH RATHOR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of a recently published report in which it is found that nearly 28 percent of the foodgrains supplied to the States by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) were either not distributed on time or did not reach the intended beneficiaries and which led to massive food losses and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is linking this situation to the lack of monitoring, storage and proper distribution of the Public Distribution System at the State level;
- (c) if so, whether the Government is considering to issue directions to the States for timely distribution, digital tracking and to fixing accountability to prevent such wastage;
- (d) whether the Government is formulating any comprehensive reform policy regarding implementation of a centralised real-time grain tracking system; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) to (e): The report of nearly 28% of the foodgrains supplied to the States by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) were either not distributed on time or did not reach the intended beneficiaries erroneously conflates offtake and distribution. Offtake refers to the quantity of foodgrains lifted by the States from the Central depots, while distribution represents the delivery of these grains to the beneficiaries. Offtake figures also account for stocks in transit, buffer allocations, operational reserves and stock for other welfare schemes (OWS) which are not immediately distributed to the households. By failing to account for these distinctions, the report's estimates are fundamentally incorrect.

Given the robust digital interventions on both the supply and distribution sides, the possibility of massive food losses in the system has been effectively eliminated.

As part of the technology driven Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, with the aim to improve the efficiency and reduce loss in the PDS, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized (100%) in all States/UTs. The transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs. Also, online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and Urban area of Dadra & Nagar Haveli which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme) and supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs.

Further, nearly 5.41 Lakh (99.6%) out of total 5.43 Lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country have been automated by installing ePoS devices for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries, ensuring rightful targeting of beneficiaries.
