

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4010
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH AUGUST, 2026

FAIR PRICE SHOPS UNDER PDS IN BIHAR

4010 SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the functioning of Fair Price Shops under the Public Distribution System in the State of Bihar during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the total number of Fair Price Shops operating in Bihar, district-wise including Maharajganj Lok Sabha Constituency;
- (c) whether cases of irregularities including diversion of foodgrains, under-weighment, nonopening of shops on scheduled days and complaints against Fair Price Shop dealers have been reported in Bihar;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise along with the action taken against erring Fair Price Shop dealers and measures taken to improve monitoring, inspection and accountability; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to modernize Fair Price Shops in Bihar through installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices, digital stock management and other technology-driven reforms and if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) to (e): Yes. In order to strengthen implementation of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, the Department of Food and Public Distribution conducted the concurrent evaluation for assessment of the implementation of PMGKAY during 2025-26. The assessment, inter alia, evaluates operational performance, including the functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs). The assessment outcomes are generated at National/State level.

The performance indicators under the Service Delivery and Infrastructure & Supply Chain assess the functioning of FPSs. The State of Bihar performs strongly in Service Delivery while moderately in Infrastructure & Supply Chain. As per the concurrent evaluation survey, the Estimated percentage of Service Delivery and Infrastructure & Supply Chain of different indicators with regard to functioning of FPSs are given at **Annexure-I**.

The total number of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) under NFSA are 51,965 in Bihar and the statement indicating the District-wise FPSs, is at **Annexure-II**.

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under NFSA, 2013 is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/ Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/ UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS, issuance of license to FPS dealers, supervision over and monitoring of functioning of FPSs etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

Helpline number 1967/1800-State series number is operational in all the States/ UTs for contacting and redressal of the complaints/grivences in Public Distribution System and filing any type of complaints by the intended beneficiaries. Accordingly, as and when any type of complaints/ grievances related to TPDS are received in this Department from any source, they are sent to concerned State/UT Governments for inquiry and appropriate action.

An offence committed in violation of the provisions of TPDS (Control) Order, 2015 is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, the Order empowers State/ UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders.

The steps taken by the Government for modernization, digitization and transparency in Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country (including Bihar) are as below:

- i. Digitisation & Aadhaar seeding:** Ration cards/beneficiary database 100% digitised in all States/UTs; 99.7% of ration cards Aadhaar-seeded, eliminating bogus/duplicate cards.
- ii. Transparency & grievance redressal:** Transparency portals and online grievance redressal/toll-free helplines operational in all States/UTs.
- iii. Online allocation & supply chain computerisation:** Online allocation implemented in all States/UTs; supply chain computerised in 31 States/UTs (except Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban Dadra & Nagar Haveli, which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer).
- iv. ePoS-based Aadhaar authentication at FPS level:** 5.50 lakh (99.8%) of 5.51 lakh Fair Price Shops automated with ePoS devices, ensuring biometric authentication of beneficiaries at the point of distribution and curbing diversion.

v. One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC): Nationwide portability implemented across all 36 States/UTs, covering all PMGKAY beneficiaries; over 221 crore portability transactions recorded to date, reducing exclusion and duplicate entitlement claims.

vi. Rightful Targeting (RT): A dedicated de-duplication and beneficiary-verification exercise using Aadhaar/PDS data analytics has led to identification and deletion of ineligible/duplicate beneficiaries, with 5.95 Cr flagged beneficiaries (excluding landholding cases) and 2.35 Cr deleted beneficiaries.

vii. SMART-PDS reform initiative: Being implemented with modules for Ration Card Management, Distribution, Supply Chain and Grievance Redressal to further standardise and digitally integrate State-level TPDS operations.

viii. NIRMAL & SAKSHAM: New initiatives under the SARTHAK PDS Umbrella Scheme (2026–31) aimed at strengthening data architecture/analytics (NIRMAL) and real-time data integration (including VLTS) from Procurement of food grains to Distribution to the beneficiaries (Saksham).

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4010 FOR ANSWER ON 12.08.2026 IN THE LOK SABHA

S.No.	As per the Survey, Estimated percentage of indicators	State
1.	Beneficiaries collecting ration in a single FPS visit.	97.3
2.	Beneficiaries receiving ration within 30 minutes	66.5
3.	FPSs maintaining satisfactory cleanliness standards	47.8
4.	FPSs equipped with Iris Scanners	62.3
5.	FPSs using manual weighing systems	10.4
6.	FPSs using electronic weighing systems	96.2
7.	FPSs conducting weighing machine calibration	90.5
8.	FPSs connected through WhatsApp communication systems	99.4
9.	FPSs owners reporting operational viability of FPSs	31.3
10.	FPSs enabled for ONORC transactions	93.4
11.	FPSs actively implementing ONORC services	68.4
12.	FPSs monitored by Vigilance Committees	30.1
13.	FPSs maintaining complaint registration systems	51.1

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 4010 FOR ANSWER ON 12.08.2026 IN THE LOK SABHA**

District wise No. Of Fair Price Shop in Bihar		
S.No.	District Name	Fair Price Shop
1	ARARIA	1,472
2	ARWAL	323
3	AURANGABAD	1,363
4	BANKA	1,071
5	BEGUSARAI	1,495
6	BHAGALPUR	1,412
7	BHOJPUR	1,610
8	BUXAR	941
9	DARBHANGA	1,982
10	GAYA	2,075
11	GOPALGANJ	1,446
12	JAMUI	854
13	JEHANABAD	503
14	KAIMUR (BHABUA)	900
15	KATIHAR	1,546
16	KHAGARIA	846
17	KISHANGANJ	835
18	LAKHISARAI	518
19	MADHEPURA	1,001
20	MADHUBANI	2,145
21	MUNGER	671
22	MUZAFFARPUR	2,397
23	NALANDA	1,408
24	NAWADA	1,116
25	PASHCHIM CHAMPARAN	1,909
26	PATNA	2,635
27	PURBI CHAMPARAN	2,651
28	PURNA	1,405
29	ROHTAS	1,516
30	SAHARSA	991
31	SAMASTIPUR	2,196
32	SARAN	2,322
33	SHEIKHPURA	303
34	SHEOHAR	343
35	SITAMARHI	1,671
36	SIWAN	1,667
37	SUPAUL	1,102
38	VAISHALI	1,324
TOTAL		51,965
