നക്ഷത്ര ചിഹ്നം ഇല്ലാത്ത ചോദ്യം നം. 2268   21-06-2024 - ൽ മറുപടിയ്ക്ക്

സ്മാർട്ട് പി.ഡി.എസ്. പദ്ധതി

ചോദ്യം	ഉത്തരം
ശ്രീ. എൽദോസ് പി. കുന്നപ്പിള്ളിൽ	ശ്രീ ജി ആർ അനിൽ (ഭക്ഷ്യ-പൊതുവിതരണ വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി)
(എ) സംസ്ഥാനത്ത് റേഷൻ വിതരണ, സംഭരണ മേഖലയിൽ സ്മാർട്ട് പി.ഡി.എസ്. എന്ന കേന്ദ്ര പദ്ധതി നടപ്പാക്കാൻ കേരളം തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോയെന്നറിയിക്കുമോ; പദ്ധതിയുടെ വിശദാംശങ്ങളും കേന്ദ്ര–സംസ്ഥാന വിഹിതവും സംബന്ധിച്ച കാര്യങ്ങൾ വ്യക്തമാക്കാമോ;	(എ) ഉണ്ട്. സംസ്ഥാനത്ത് പൊതുവിതരണ രംഗത്ത് എൻഡ്-ട്ടു-എൻഡ് കമ്പ്യൂട്ടറൈസേഷൻ സ്കീമുകൾ കൊണ്ടു വന്ന സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിയുള്ള പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ നിലനിർത്താനും നിലവിലുള്ള IMPDS സ്കീമിന്റെ പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ കൂടുതൽ മെച്ചപ്പെടുത്താനും, പൊതു വിതരണ സമ്പ്രദായത്തിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിൽ ഭാവിയിൽ പുതിയ പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ അവതരിപ്പിക്കാനും, ഒരു രാജ്യം ഒരു റേഷൻ കാർഡ് (ONORC) സംവിധാനത്തിന് കീഴിൽ ദേശീയ പോർട്ടബിലിറ്റി ശക്തിപ്പെടുത്തുവാനും ടി പദ്ധതി ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു. ഗോഡൗൺ തലങ്ങളിൽ പ്രവർത്തന ക്ഷമത വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതോടൊപ്പം ഭരണവും നിയന്ത്രണവും മെച്ചപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടികളും ടി പദ്ധതിയിൽ വിഭാവനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. സ്മാർട്ട് പി ഡി എസ് പദ്ധതിയിൽ കേന്ദ്ര-സംസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ തമ്മിലുള്ള ചെലവ് പങ്കിടൽ വ്യവസ്ഥ പ്രകാരം കേന്ദ്ര-സംസ്ഥാനാനുപാതം 60:40 എന്ന അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിലാണ്. ഇതു സംബന്ധിച്ച ധാരണാ പത്രത്തിൽ കേരളം ഒപ്പുവച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. (ധാരണാ പത്രത്തിന്റെ പകർപ്പ് ഉള്ളടക്കം ചെയ്യുന്നു). സർക്കാർ തലത്തിൽ സ്മാർട്ട് പി ഡി എസ് പദ്ധതിയിൽ മാറ്റം വരുത്തിയിട്ടില്ല.
(ബി) പ്രസ്തുത പദ്ധതിക്കായി കേരളം ധാരണാപത്രം ഒപ്പിട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ; എങ്കിൽ ധാരണാപത്രത്തിലെ വിശദാംശങ്ങൾ നൽകാമോ; കേരളത്തിന്റെ അഭ്യർഥനപ്രകാരം പ്രസ്തുതപദ്ധതിയിൽ എന്തൊക്കെ മാറ്റങ്ങളാണ് വരുത്തിയതെന്നറിയിക്കാമോ;	(ബി) പിരിവ് (എ) യുടെ മറുപടി കണ്ടാലും.
(സി) സ്മാർട്ട് പി.ഡി.എസ്. പദ്ധതിക്കായി പുറമേ നിന്നുള്ള ഐ.ടി. വിദഗ്ധരെ ഉൾപ്പെടെ ഭക്ഷ്യപൊതുവിതരണ വകുപ്പിൽ നിയമിക്കാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോയെന്നും ഇവരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തത് ഏത് ഏജൻസി	(സി) സ്മാർട്ട് പി ഡി എസ് പദ്ധതിയുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് ധാരണാ പത്രത്തിൽ പ്രതിപാദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത് പ്രകാരം പദ്ധതി നടത്തിപ്പിനായി സംസ്ഥാന തലത്തിൽ വിവിധ തസ്തികകളിലായി നിശ്ചിത യോഗ്യതയും

	വഴിയാണെന്നും അറിയിക്കാമോ; ഭക്ഷ്യപൊതുവിതരണ വകുപ്പിലെ ഐ.ടി. യോഗ്യതയും പ്രവൃത്തിപരിചയവുമുള്ള ജീവനക്കാരെ നിയോഗിക്കാതിരുന്നത് എന്തുകൊണ്ടാണെന്ന് വിശദമാക്കാമോ;		പ്രവൃത്തി പരിചയവുമുള്ള 06 പേരെ NICSI എംപാനൽഡ് ഇ-ഗവേണൻസ് പ്രൊഫഷണൽ സർവ്വീസ്/ സ്റ്റേറ്റ് എംപാനൽഡ് ഏജൻസികൾ മുഖാന്തിരം നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതായുണ്ട്. ഇത് സംബന്ധിച്ച നടപടികൾ ആരംഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ല.
(ഡി)	സ്മാർട്ട് പി.ഡി.എസ്. പദ്ധതി നടപ്പാക്കുമ്പോൾ കേരളത്തിന് ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന പ്രത്യേക മാറ്റങ്ങൾ എന്തൊക്കെയാണ്; സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ റേഷൻ വിഹിതം, വിതരണം, സംഭരണം എന്നിവയിൽ കുറവ് വരുമോ; കേന്ദ്ര വിഹിതം ഏതൊക്കെ രംഗത്താണ് കുറയുക; വിശദാംശം നൽകുമോ?	(ഡി)	സ്മാർട്ട് പി.ഡി.എസ് പ്രധാനമായും ലക്ഷ്യം വയ്ക്കുന്നത് റേഷൻ വിതരണവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് നിലവിൽ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യയുടെ നവീകരണവും ഏകീകരണവും ആണ്. നിലവിലുള്ള IMPDS സ്കീമിന്റെ പരിഷ്ക്കാരങ്ങൾ കൂടുതൽ മെച്ചപ്പെടുത്താനും പൊതു വിതരണ സമ്പ്രദായത്തിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിൽ ഭാവിയിൽ പുതിയ പരിഷ്ക്കാരങ്ങൾ അവതരിപ്പിക്കാനും, ഒരു രാജ്യം ഒരു റേഷൻ കാർഡ് (ONORC) സംവിധാനത്തിന് കീഴിൽ ദേശീയ പോർട്ടബിലിറ്റി ശക്തിപ്പെടുത്തുവാനും സ്മാർട്ട് പി ഡി എസ് പദ്ധതി വഴി ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു. ഗോഡൗണുകളുടെ പ്രവർത്തന ക്ഷമത വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതോടൊപ്പം ഭരണവും നിയന്ത്രണവും മെച്ചപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടികളും ടി പദ്ധതിയിൽ വിഭാവനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. കേന്ദ്ര സംസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ തമ്മിലുള്ള ചെലവ് പങ്കിടൽ വ്യവസ്ഥ പ്രകാരം കേന്ദ്ര സംസ്ഥാനാനുപാതം 60:40 എന്ന അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിലാണ്.

സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർ

Memorandum of Understanding with States/UTs

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter 'MoU') is drawn on this <date> day of <Month>, 2023, by and between:

i. The Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. Government of India, located at Krishi Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Marg, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as "DoF&PD"), of the FIRST PART, represented by...~~Joint Secretary~~ (BP, PD)

AND

ii. State Government of **Kerala** having its office at **Government Secretariat Thiruvananthapuram** (here after referred to as "State Government/UT Administration"), of the SECOND PART, represented by **Secretary** Department of Food & Civil Supplies, Government of **Kerala**

DoF&PD and State Government /UT Administration are individually referred to as **"Party"** and collectively as the **"Parties"**. The Centrally Sponsored **Scheme on 'Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS)'** proposed to be implemented from 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2026, i.e.up to the duration of 15th Finance Commission, is hereinafter referred to as **"Scheme"**.

WHEREAS:

I. DoF&PD has issued "Administrative Approval" for implementation of the Scheme in all States/UTs as a "Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)" as some of the components are to be implemented on cost sharing basis with States/UTs; the administrative approval covers objectives, description of key activities, implementation plan, methodology & approach, indicative outcomes, monitoring mechanisms, scheme evaluation, release of funds, terms & conditions, etc.

II. State Government /UT Administration realize that the Scheme aims to address the pressing need to mitigate the challenges faced by States/UTs in sustaining the use of information technology in the Public Distribution System (PDS). The Scheme aims to achieve Integration and up-gradation of existing PDS systems, Strengthening of Institutional Support, Implementation Monitoring and Capacity Building & Training under the SMART-PDS scheme.

III. Food & Civil Supplies Department of State Government/UT Administration of <name of State/UT> is the Nodal Agency (hereinafter 'Nodal Agency') for fund management and project monitoring at state level.

IV. Funds will be released under scheme by DoF&PD to the State Government /UT Administration for the duration of the Scheme as specified in the Administrative Approval for the Scheme.

V. There would not be any overlapping of funds provided to State/UT under the IM-PDS scheme for the same component/activity for which funds are approved /admissible under the SMART-PDS Scheme. In case of any such funds already available with the State/UT, the same should be returned back to DoFPD with applicable interest.

VI. The actual allocation / release of funds from DoF&PD to State Government /UT Administration would be determined on the basis of the financial proposal submitted by the State Government /UT Administration and the actual utilization of funds in the State/UT in alignment with approval order and subsequent financial sanctions.

VII. Under the Scheme, State Government /UT Administration agree to own and leverage all the existing IT infrastructure created under the End-to-End Computerization of TPDS and Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) schemeand will bear all the expenses incurred towards the ownership, operations, maintenance, etc. for the duration of the scheme and for the period beyond the duration of the scheme.

VIII. In pursuance of the aforesaid, the Parties hereto record under this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the terms of their mutual understanding in order to implement the Scheme as proposed by DoF&PD / approved by the Government.

NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES HERETO AGREE AS UNDER:

ARTICLE 1 - SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The scheme intends to sustain the technology-led reforms brought in by the end-to-end computerization schemes in all States/UTs and further enhance reforms by the existing IMPDS scheme, and to introduce future/new reforms in the functioning of the PDS and strengthening of national portability under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) System. Therefore, to maintain the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of the PDS, governed under the provisions of NFSA in the country, it is necessary that all activities covered under the 'End-to-End Computerization of TPDS Operations' Schemes remain operational in all States/UTs and such tasks / activities shall be implemented by new initiatives/reforms which are scalable/upgradable to aid in the distribution of subsidised foodgrains. The scheme aims to address the pressing need to mitigate the challenges faced by States/UTs in sustaining the use of information technology in the Public Distribution System (PDS).

I. The activities under the Scheme are briefly described as below:

1) Components/activities at the States/UTs' level:

   a) Ownership for implementation of scheme in the State / UT.
   b) Sign MoU/Agreement with DFPD for implementation of the SMART-PDS Scheme.
   c) Project implementation including creation of Institutional mechanism for monitoring the project (Constitution of State level committee for monitoring of implementation of scheme, along with a nominated member from DoF&PD).
   d) Appoint nodal officer at State level for reviewing and monitoring implementation of SMART-PDS Scheme.
   e) Support & coordinate with System Integrator (SI) for smooth & timely implementation of SMART-PDS components.
   f) Selection and deployment of resources under State Project Implementation Team as per the guidelines issued by Central Government for regularly review progress of implementation of SMART-PDS Components
   g) Relevant policy changes as required for the development and implementation of the SMART-PDS components in the State, covering aspects related to Ration

Card management, Supply Chain Operations, FPS Automation, Portability, Data Standardization, Data Analytics, de-duplication/verification of ration cards, etc.

h) Provide necessary administrative support to System Integrator (SI) and cloud service providers for implementation & operations of the scheme.

i) Ensure regular use of workflow-based application modules for Supply Chain Management, Ration Card management, Supply Chain Management and other modules of SMART-PDS in terms of updation / entry of data on real time basis

j) Regularly report the progress of project implementation and fund utilization to Government of India as per milestones and formats prescribed in agreement document.

k) Assist SI for planning and hosting the PDS Network on Cloud Infrastructure and support for business continuity plan as per DFPD guidelines.

l) Coordination with Cloud Service Providers for provisioning of cloud infrastructure, system software, databases, other requisite software tools for deployment and functioning of SMART-PDS components

m) Provide appropriate ICT support for undertaking application testing, application/infrastructure audit, compliance to MeitY/UIDAI guidelines, etc.

n) Participation in design, development, customization/ configuration, testing, operation and maintenance of various components of the SMART-PDS.

o) Make necessary attempt to ensure quality and timely delivery of desired components of SMART-PDS.

p) Ensure real-time synchronization of PDS related data, availability of data on State Transparency Portals for public access and prepare/ generate MIS reports for the decision making.

q) Resolution of challenges that may arise between various stakeholders at State / UT level

2) Components/activities at the Central level:

a) Formulation of National level policies, guidelines, and frameworks for the development, implementation, and maintenance of the project

b) Project conceptualization and formulating guidelines with consultation with States/UTs and other key stakeholders for implementation of SMART-PDS scheme.

c) Selection / setting up of Central Project Implementation Team (CPIT) for implementation and monitoring of SMART-PDS;

d) Fund Monitoring and Control as per the Funds Release Plans and utilization certificates

e) Third Party Evaluation(s) – DFPD to formulate necessary guidelines & framework in consultation with the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog, to get the third-party evaluations done as and when needed.

f) For better and informed policy making decisions, to promulgate and highlight the usage of ever increasing and ever crucial technologies such as 'Cloud technology', 'Data Analytics', etc. to all the States/UTs, and thereby, enable the States / UTs to identify the respective areas of improvement via various metrics and KPIs, such as streamlining PDS operations, facilitate rightful targeting of food subsidy under NFSA, timely delivery of the public services in a more transparent manner, etc.

g) To ensure the targeted implementation of an integrated system of PDS operations into one unified platform in the country by way of execution of SMART-PDS related advanced technology driven reforms across the states/UTs

while integration with systems of FCI, CWC, WCD, School Education, etc. covering followings

- o integration of live applications / portals under PDS along with State driven PDS schemes,
- o relevant touch points/integration points of supply chain operations manged by FCI/CWC,
- o allocation and integration with systems of WCD/School Education, etc.

h) Regular monitoring and control of the project scheme through fixation of responsibilities and accountability in review meetings, necessary state visits, etc. with all the states, System Integrator, NIC nodal officials at Centre and State level, and other important stakeholders

i) DFPD to oversee the generation of computerized data, online reports etc., for onward submission to higher authorities as well as for its own consumption and necessary sharing of information with other key stakeholders, Ministries/Departments, etc. This shall help DFPD to do a careful and systematic analysis which would result in valuable insights into the quality of the implementation of on-ground implementation of allocation, supply chain operation, foodgrain distribution, and thereby, support in identification of the areas for improvement.

j) Implementation of this new scheme, which would mainly focus on strengthening of technology components under PDS reforms by – Standardization of PDS operation through the usage of technology, enabling hosting on the cloud IT infra and Implementation of Data driven decision making through the data analytics / BI platforms and other ICT tools & technologies:

3) **Components/activities at NIC:**

a) NIC will be technical partner for implementation of SMART PDS.
b) Selection of System Integrator/ development company, cloud service provider, helpdesk and vendor for setting up command control centre will be done by NIC.
c) NIC will lead RFP preparation and finalization of functional and technical requirement for SMART PDS along with Central Project Implementation Team (CPIT) of DFPD.
d) NIC will coordinate with SI/ System Integrator for designing, development, testing and implementation of SMART PDS Application.

II. **Implementation Plan**

This proposed Smart PDS system is expected to be future-ready, cost-effective, and efficient, saving time and effort. It will be implemented in a phased manner after extensive stakeholder consultations and the selection of a suitable development partner and cloud service provider. The system will be maintained and supported to ensure optimal performance and scalability. Following are the key phases in the implementation:

a) **Stakeholder Consultations:**
In this phase, Central Project Implementation team and NIC team shall be doing consultation with States/UTs to understand the State needs, their challenges. Consultation would assist team in formulation of the scope for SMART-PDS application.

b) **Phase-2: Selection of Development Partner and Cloud Service Provider**
Functional requirements gathered during stakeholder consultation and RFP documents prepared by DFPD team in consultation with NIC HQ and States/UTs

during preparatory phase would be further examined, revalidated, and floated through government eProcurement process (GeM)/other suitable tendering process by NIC. During this phase, development partner and cloud service provider would be selected through tendering processsby NIC .

c) **Phase 3: Development Phase**

This is the key phase where the Development partner will prepare the SRS document and follow a strict development timeline to deliver the envisaged modules of the proposed SMART PDS scheme. The NIC team and CPIT would provide technical support in the development of the centralized application. The conclusion of the phase happens once the application is developed and tested. During this phase preparatory exercise for data orchestration will also be done to bring the asymmetric data on a common platform for all applications and modules. The security audit activities will also be completed after UAT. For the next phase of capacity building, the user-manuals, training materials like videos, FAQs etc. will be prepared.

d) **Phase 4: Go Live and Capacity Building of States/UTs**

During development phase, it is expected that the unified application shall be fully developed and functional within the timeline. Post development, States/UTs and NIC shall be doing user acceptance testing. NIC HQ, Development partner (SI) and Cloud Service provider will work together to migrate existing PDS application to cloud environment. After successful migration of entire database, respective State Govt. will give the permission for Go-Live. Additionally, System Integrator would assist the States Teams to build their expertise for configuration, customization and preparing reports w.r.t. State requirements.

e) **Phase 5: Maintenance and support of SMART-PDS application**

During this phase, maintenance and continuous technical support will be provided to States/UTs through CPIT, SPIT, NIC, and Development Partner (SI). The Development Partner will provide the continuous post-deployment maintenance support upto validity of this scheme i.e. 31st March 2026.

III. **Methodology and Approach**

The methodology for implementation of the scheme is given below:

a) The existing PDS system will continue to operate until the new system is tested and ready for implementation and training to the stakeholders.

b) The proposed PDS applications will be developed by the Centre with customization options for States as per their specific requirements.

c) Cloud infrastructure and services will be preferred instead of investing in physical servers, making the system easily scalable for future requirements.

d) The proposed system will be utilized as a service for all PDS schemes such as NFSA, State schemes, etc.

e) The cloud service provider will be paid as agreed interval for recurring expenses for the purpose of utilization of IT infrastructure.

f) This process not only will save cost, time, efforts but also make the PDS system completely future ready.

IV. **Indicative Outcomes of the scheme**

Indicate Outcomes of the scheme in the form of measurable indicators which can be used to evaluate the proposal periodically. Baseline data or survey against which such outcomes should be benchmarked should be mentioned.

Sl.	Components of the scheme	Outcomes in terms of measurable indicators
a)	Continuation of existing support on SMART-PDS	• To continue the support of various application modules, portals, dashboard, integration with other Ministries/Departments, etc. developed under End-To-End Computerization and Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS) schemes till rollout of new application modules and IT infrastructure of SMART-PDS. • This will also include continuation of Data Centre Services procured under IMPDS covering Central System and PDS applications of State/UTs.
b)	Development of SMART-PDS Application	• Department has proposed to develop agile, scalable, and future ready Unified PDS application which will have exhaustive functionalities/ features and it can be easily configured to meet State specific requirements.
c)	Centralised cloud Infrastructure	• Department proposed to create a centralised cloud infrastructure for all States/UTs which shall include VMs, System Software, Database, Anti-Virus & Other Supporting Software Licenses, managed services, etc.and other cloud Services.
d)	Centralized Data Analytics Engine	• It is proposed to apply data analytics tools and techniques on the cloud for better utilization of PDS data to get the insights to improve the quality of PDS services at State level.
c)	Command Control Centre	• A dedicated central Command Control Centre shall be setup at the level of DFPD which will be jointly supported by Help Desk Staff, Central Project Implementation Team (CPIT) and System Integrator. • A dedicated State Command Control Centre shall be setup at the level of State F&CS Department and shall be jointly supported by Help Desk Staff and State Project Implementation Team (SPIT)
e)	Delivery of SMS alerts	• SMSs will be sent for awareness generation activities, supply chain operations, grievance redressal, etc.
f)	Institutional support at –	
f.1)	Central / Department level	• Setting up/continuation of a Central Project Implementation Team (CPIT) in the Department • Centralized monitoring of scheme to ensure all key activities of the scheme are efficiently and effectively implemented by States/UTs and System Integrator.
f.2)	States/UTs level	• Setting up/continuation of State Project

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Sl.	Components of the scheme	Outcomes in terms of measurable indicators
		Implementation Team (SPIT) in States/UTs. • Hiring/engagement of resource as suggested under the Scheme for / o Implementation and operationalization of SMART, PDS application in the State. o Continuous data analysis of PDS operations.
f.3)	NIC	• Continuation of technical support to existing applications & IT system by NIC. • Selection of System Integrator, Cloud Service Provider and vendor for setting up Command Control Center. • Coordination with System Integrator/ Cloud Service Provider for Design, Development, implementation, and Maintenance of SMART PDS application.

ARTICLE 2 – INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR THE SCHEME

I. A two tier structure will be setup at the States/UTs level consisting of **State Apex Committee** under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary and a **State Project e-Mission Team** under the Chairmanship of Secretary in charge of the Department of Food & Civil Supplies.

II. The roles and responsibilities to be discharged by the Parties and other Stakeholders shall be as follows:

a) State Government /UT Administrations shall undertake monthly review of the work done in the States/ UTs.

b) The State Government /UT Administration shall furnish to the DOF&PD, a quarterly progress on the Scheme implementation & operations.

c) States / UTs will depute a Nodal Officer for the end-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations.

ARTICLE 3 - ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

I. **Department of Food & Public Distribution**
Government of India through DoF&PD, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is the owner of the project at the National level. Considering that the PDS is a heavy subsidy bearing programme of the Government of India, wherein, continuous efforts have been made by the Department to transform the PDS operations using technology to bring transparency and efficiency in PDS operations across the country. In the present scenario, the revolutionary SMART-PDS Scheme envisages following roles and responsibilities for the Department: -

► Formulation of National level policies, guidelines, and frameworks for the development, implementation, and maintenance of the project

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- ► Project conceptualization and formulating directions for the SMART-PDS scheme implementation

- ► Selection and setting up of Central Governance Team (CPIT) for regular monitoring of implementation of SMART-PDS

- ► Coordinate with NIC for selection of Development Partner / System Integrator (SI) for implementation of SMART-PDS project

- ► Coordinate with NIC for selection of Cloud Technology Partner for computing power, storage, and databases, on an as-needed basis from a cloud service provider. This concept needs to be considered and deployed instead of buying, owning, and maintaining physical data centers and servers as done earlier

- ► Release and monitoring of the funds as per the Funds Release Plans for funding the States / UTs and all other stakeholders

- ► Scheme's third-party Evaluation(s) – DFPD to formulate necessary guidelines & framework in consultation with the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog and to get the third-party evaluations done as and when needed

- ► DFPD to ensure improvement in the efficiency of public delivery services through various means and resources such as perceptible and acceptable improvement in KPIs pertaining to the last-mile reach of the ration to the eligible beneficiaries

- ► For better and informed policy making decisions, DFPD to promulgate and highlight the usage of ever increasing and ever crucial technologies such as 'Data Analytics' to all the States/UTs, and thereby, enable the States / UTs to identify the respective areas of improvement via various metrics and KPIs, such as streamlining PDS operations, facilitate rightful targeting of food subsidy under NFSA, timely delivery of the public services in a more transparent manner, etc.

- ► To ensure the targeted implementation of an integrated system of PDS operations, i.e. integration of numerous live applications / portals under PDS along with State driven schemes into one unified platform in the country by way of execution of SMART-PDS

- ► Regular monitoring and control of the project scheme through fixation of responsibilities and accountability of all the States, Development Partner, NIC nodal officials at Centre and State level, and other important stakeholders discussed during review meetings, necessary State visits, etc.

- ► DFPD to ensure strengthening of the Central & State level cloud infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted efficient usage of the cloud technology

- ► DFPD to oversee the generation of computerized data, online reports etc., for onward submission to higher authorities as well as for its own consumption and necessary sharing of information with the states. This shall help DFPD to do a careful and systematic analysis which would result in valuable insights into the quality of the implementation of on-ground implementation of Ration Distribution, and thereby, support in identification of the areas for improvement

- ► DFPD would mainly focus on strengthening of technology components under PDS reforms by – Standardization of PDS operation through the usage of technology and Implementation of Data driven decision making through the data analytics / BI platforms and other ICT tools & technologies

II. **Central Project Implementation Team(CPIT)**
A Central Governance Team would be constituted which would provision services of technology expert, subject matter experts / domain experts. The team would facilitate the entire project initiation, development, implementation, and maintenance, and thereby, support the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) in the SMART-PDS Project Scheme execution: -

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▶ CPIT shall be responsible for the entire set of activities, including but not limited to activities such as: -

1) Leveraging Institutional framework through requisite technical human resource and project management support

2) Providing services such as Technical expert, Domain Experts for achieving the following key objectives of the subject scheme: -

    i. *Development and implementation of an Advance, Standard & Scalable solution for entire PDS operations for Ration Card Management to last mile delivery at FPSs*

    ii. *Integration & Standardization of the Centre & State level systems into one unified platform*

    iii. *Strengthening Key Elements of e-Governance in States/UTs for advancing technology-driven reforms beyond End-To-End Computerization and IM-PDS scheme (ONORC)*

    iv. *Creation of a robust & unified mechanism for entire PDS operations*

3) Setting up of Technical Support & Training Centre for Monitoring, Data Analytics, at Central level for data driven decision making. In parallel, the CPIT team would enable functions such as data analytics, etc. in respect of ongoing as well as future PDS reforms across the country

4) Implementation of Data driven decision making methodologies / workings through the data analytics / BI platforms and other advanced technological tools & technologies in order to strengthen the technology infrastructure.

5) The CPIT would work upon central repository of all data (detailed information ration cards / beneficiaries, ePoS transactions including all metrics pertaining to biometric authentication and distribution, allocation and supply chain of food grains, etc.) and usage of the data analytics tools and techniques on the central database

6) Covering wide and varied consultations with the states / UTs as well as other stakeholders' consultations

7) Finalisation of KPIs for selection of an established & experienced Development Partner / System Integrator (SI)

8) Assist in preparation, review and finalisation of RFPs for Development Partner / SI , cloud service provider, Command Control Centre provider, etc.

9) To work alongside System Integrator (SI) for timely development and implementation of SMART-PDS components

10) CPIT will have the clear tasks defined in terms of supporting DFPD in various stages of SMART-PDS execution such as: -
   • Development of an integrated platform,
   • Data migration,
   • On-boarding of States/UTs,
   • Capacity building of Central/State Governance Teams,
   • Go-Live stages,
   • Review & Monitoring,
   • Extending committed support during the maintenance of existing system and till Go-Live Stage

11) The CPIT would enable benefits of new developed system, such as: -
   • Finalisation of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs),
   • Finalisation of Framework for monitoring the entire implementation & progress of the SMART-PDS scheme
   • Carrying out regular assessment of the KPIs of SMART-PDS scheme and preparation of the progress report of activities carried out /

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pending with SI, CSP, NIC, States/UTs and other Stakeholders on a regular basis.

- To execute tasks pertaining to data analytics for entire set of activities/data generated from States/UTs for RCs, Allocations, Supply Chain & FPS Automation till distribution. In this regard, CPIT would closely work with all the stakeholders including System Integrator (SI) for monitoring and evaluation of the data generated

12) CPIT to identify the issues and critical factors in the implementation of the scheme, to provide solution mechanism and technical support to resolve these issues and coordinate with the concerned stakeholders for proper resolution

13) CPIT to support the Department to formulate detailed guidelines/SoPs, project plan, template, MoU/Agreement and administrative approval for implementation of SMART-PDS and provide ongoing technical assistance and support to the Department in drafting presentation, guidelines, official communications (letters/OMs/emails), reportsetc. to implement efficient and effective monitoring & implementation mechanism

14) CPIT In coordination with State Governance Team (SPIT) shall regularly review status of activities assigned to SPIT team and provide status updates of issues to DFPD

15) CPIT shall undertake ground related tasks on requirement basis, such as field visits to assess progress and best practices adopted by States/UTs in the implementation of the SMART-PDS system, i.e., Supply Chain Automation and FPS Automation, Aadhaar seeding & validation processes, ration card management with special focus on other important components like portability, de-duplication, data security, etc.

16) CPIT team basis data analysis shall create State level frameworks for applying data analytics and other metrics, and thereby, support States / UTs to implement the requisite framework in conjunction with the State Technical Team, i.e., NIC / System Integrator

17) CPIT will act as an authorised representative of DFPD at requisite forums / meetings that shall be held or organized by the key stakeholders such as States/UTs, MeiTY, other Ministries/Departments, NIC, UIDAI, DBT Mission, FCI, CWC, etc.

► The CPIT would comprise of a set of technical, functional and domain experts from NICSI empanelled e-Governance professional Service (Tier- I) comprising of key resource personnel by NIC : -

S.No.	Resource type	Category as per NICSI Tier-I empanelment agency Provisioned for proposed SMART-PDS Scheme (for 3 years)
1	Pr. Consultant	15 years and above experience (Technical profile)
2	Senior Consultant	>10 years and <15 years experience (Management / Functional profile)
3	Consultant	>6 years and <10 years experience (Management / Functional profile)
4	Data Analyst	>6 years and <10 years experience (Technical profile)
5	Support Staff – Assistants	Tier -2 Staff as per NICSI empanelment

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		Temporary deployment of resources for requirement gathering preparation of DPR/RFP and selection of Development Partner(SI) and cloud service provider (for 6-12 months)
1	Tech Lead	15 years and above experience (Technical profile)
2	Solution Architect	15 years and above experience (Technical profile)
3	Business Analyst	>6 years and <10 years experience (Management / Functional profile)
4	Cloud and Network Infrastructure expert	15 years and above experience (Technical profile)
5	IT Security expert	15 years and above experience (Technical profile)
6	Supply Chain and Logistic expert	>10 years and <15 years experience (Management / Functional profile)

► The CPIT composition may be kept as flexible in terms of resource type and count to justify the changing demands of the SMART-PDS while in development as well as Maintenance phases. The number of such resources in total would be around 22 in initial year.

III. **Helpdesk team at Centre**

A dedicated central Command Control Centre shall be setup at the level of DFPD to serve as a dedicated "Technical Support, monitoring and Training Centre" and shall be jointly supported by Central Project Implementation Team (CPIT) and Development Partner. Helpdesk team shall be hired through government eProcurement process (GeM)/NICSI empanelment/ other suitable tendering process by NIC.

SN	Name of the Team	No. of Team Members	Tendure in Yrs
1	Helpdesk team	07	2.0

Following are key activities envisaged under this component:

a) This component shall be implemented at the central level and shall involve setting up of the central PDS Control & Command Centre (including IT equipment, VC/ communication systems/devices, additional manpower/ resources, etc.) and shall also include its operations through CPIT and development partner.

b) Following activities shall be performed by Help Desk team:

i) Providing necessary technical support to helpdesk/ technical team of States/UTs for faster resolution of their technical issues/requests through Development Partner (SI) w.r.t

- Operations of Software applications, webservices etc.
- Implementation of the scheme components, etc.
- Development, customization and Maintenance.

ii) Regular coordination with Development Partner/System Integrator for above activities and tracking/management of all activities with respect to implementation, monitoring, maintenance, performance, etc. of SMART PDS Application.

iii) Application, Dashboard and MIS monitoring etc.

iv) Round the clock help (9 AM to 6 PM) on PDS Service Helpdesk for reporting and resolving the issues till closure (except Sunday/Holidays)

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v) Centralized data monitoring of integrated Supply Chain Management solution for national portability and other application modules.

vi) Centralized monitoring and action on Integrated Grievance Redressal System.

vii) Reporting and monitoring of PDS related issues highlighted in Social Media/Print Media

viii) Regular support to Helpdesk team of States/UTs

ix) Regular meeting (weekly/monthly) meeting with Helpdesk team of States/UTs through Video Conference on all pending issues related to implementation and functioning of SMART PDS application.

x) Preparation of materials/presentations for workshops and training. Periodic training to the concerned officials.

IV. **Development Partner (DP) / System Integrator (SI)**

In order to sustain and augment the institutional support at Central by inducting a Central Government Level Development Partner (DP), or specifically in technology terms, a System Integrator (SI) for the application development, implementation and maintenance shall be hired

The envisaged SMART-PDS will be established with the help of a full-fledged expert pool and the deployment of various teams across States ensuring timely and successful implementation of the project and provide timely support with convenience. The Teams have been constituted keeping in view the overall requirement ranging from technical experts, implementation expert, support team and subject matter expert. The Team constitution and deployment plan has been elaborated in subsequent sections.

Various Teams to be deployed in the envisaged SMART-PDS is depicted below: -

SN	Name of the Team	No of Team Members	Tenure in Yrs
1	Application Development Team	61	1.5
2	Application Maintenance Team	43	1.5

The Teams and the corresponding scope of work along with the roles and responsibilities are depicted below:

1. **Application Development Team**

For effective enhancement in the existing system in terms of a robust and integrated framework envisaged for the SMART-PDS project, a full-fledged development team will be engaged. The major activities envisaged for the System Integrator/ Development Partner is depicted below:

► Setting up of Software development team and assigning their roles and responsibilities

► Detailed requirement study, analysis and documentation

► Preparation of design documents for the proposed system

► Development of the proposed system as per the agreed project plan

► Perform UAT and ensure the smooth rollout of the proposed system

► Closure of findings of the Security audit about the proposed system

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- ► Transition planning and executing from the existing system to the proposed system

- ► Operation and Maintenance of the proposed system for the prescribed duration

- ► Ensure compliance to agreed SLAs.

- ► Knowledge transfer and training sessions to State and Centre teams

The indicative list of members comprising the development team envisaged under SMART-PDS is depicted below. The list would be ramped up and down in future based as per the requirement.

S.No.	Development Team Role
1	Project Manager
2	Team Lead
3	Business Analyst
4	Tech Lead
5	Lead Developers
6	Developers (App, Mobile, AI/ML)
7	Integration Developer
8	QA/Tester
9	DBA
10	UI Developer
11	Content Writer/Documentation Expert
12	Infrastructure Specialist
13	System Administrator

2. **Application Maintenance Team**

The Application Maintenance Team will be engaged in carrying out smooth operation and maintenance of the proposed SMART-PDS system. The Application Maintenance Team is envisaged as continuation of selected development team members post completion of UAT and go-Live. Depicted below the major roles & responsibilities of the Team.

- ► Periodic maintenance of the proposed SMART-PDS scheme

- ► Fixing bugs and ensure the smooth running of the application during the operation and maintenance (O&M) phase.

- ► Keep track of the O&M procedures and system configuration changes made during the O&M phase.

- ► Fixation of Technical issues raised by the end users routed through the helpdesk team and timely resolution of tickets.

- ► Ensure system maintenance in terms of server configuration and management, patch updation, data back up and procedures etc.

- ► Ensure any new requirement or system enhancement without any additional cost implication/ Change Request whenever envisaged during the phase to be smoothly deployed and executed.

- ► Regular Technical assessment of system functioning and resolve technical barriers whenever arise during the O&M phase.

Job Descriptions of the members constituting the application maintenance team is already depicted in the above sections.

Roles and responsibilities of the Development Partner/ System Integrator (DP/SI) are as follows: -

- ► DP/SI in consultation with DFPD and NIC shall provide all necessary ICT support as per the approved project plan for implementation of this scheme for Centre

- ► DP/SI would submit activity wise project plan along with resource plan to DFPD for the approval of timelines to complete design, development, testing, security audit, implementation and rolling out of components of SMART-PDS;

- ► DP/SI would provide development environment, tools, all systems software, database licenses, technical support, managed service support, etc. through Meity empanelled cloud service providers for development and testing of SMART PDS application.

- ► DP/SI would arrange and deploy necessary desktops, computers, printers, etc. for development team for application development and maintenance of the SMART PDS application.

- ► DP/SI would also undertake that all the components of scheme are developed and hosted as per the project plan approved by DFPD;

- ► DP/SI shall provide requisite system software, operating system, software tools, databases, hardware server /storage infrastructure in cloud/data centre for implementation of SMART-PDS components.

- ► Necessary technology solutions developed for the scheme to be integrated, allow seamless data exchange, and should be inter-operable based on open standards that facilitate interoperability and data exchange among different products or services and are intended for widespread adoption.

- ► DP/SI shall take necessary measures for ensuring interoperability for States/UTs using PDS Network, accessibility of State related data on internet in public domain through a Central portal, executive dashboard for monitoring progress of computerisation, creating and maintaining single unified information system including Management Information System (MIS), etc.

- ► DP/SI shall facilitate maintenance of information and security in its network and databases for the facilities and services as per the current technology standards

- ► Integrate SMART-PDS with the platform laid by the existing schemes, 'End-to-End Computerisation of TPDS Operations', 'Integrated Management of Public Distribution System', etc. This may include migration of existing data (in standard format), handholding support to States & UTs or their designated agencies through VCs and State visit wherever necessary etc;

- ► DP/SI shall also ensure development of uniform integration modules (Web Services) so that it can be easily deployed at State's server without need of much · customization

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- ► Provide hands-on training to the State F&CS department or their nominees who would provide training to other users
- ► Necessary attempt shall be made so that all the application software/ systems are error-free and developed as per industry standards
- ► Prepare all necessary documentation like DPR, User Manuals, Implementation Guidelines, etc. relating to the scheme which should be easily accessible to all stakeholders at Central and State level. Such documents would be regularly updated at routine intervals. The documentation may cover implementation, configuration / customisation, operations, backup, maintenance, etc. of various components of the scheme
- ► DP/SI shall undertake that all the source code, scripts, etc. associated with the scheme are version controlled
- ► DP/SI shall submit Fortnightly Performance Report (FPR) to DFPD highlighting activities carried out in last 15 days along with activities planned for next 15 days. Any deviation in the approved project plan shall also be highlighted in FPR. Technical and Administrative challenges/risk shall also be informed for timely intervention and mitigation.
- ► The Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of all software code, data, algorithms, documentation, manuals etc. generated as a part of implementation of this project shall be owned by DFPD.

V.   **State Project Implementation Team (SPIT)**

A State Project Implementation Team(SPIT) would be put up in place to support the States for the implementation of SMART-PDS to facilitate the customization, smooth implementation of SMART PDS applications: -

State / UT Type	Project Manager / Consultant	Data Analyst	No. of Developers	No. of Assistant	Total
Small	1	1	1	1	4
Medium	1	1	2	2	6
Large	2	1	3	3	9
Very Large	2	2	4	4	12

Category of States/UTs :

Sl.	Category	No. of States/UTs	Name of States/UTs
1	Small	9	Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, Goa Ladakh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, D&D D&NH, Puducherry, Sikkim and Tripura
2	Medium	16	Delhi, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Manipur, Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Punjab, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh
3	Large	10	Odisha , Assam, Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana, Maharashtra, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh
4	Very Large	1	Uttar Pradesh

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The SPIT would comprise of a set of technical, functional and support staff from NICSI empanelled e-Governance professional Service / State empanelled agencies comprising of key resource personnel such as:

Sl.	Manpower in SPIT	Empanelment
1	Project Manager / Consultant in SPIT	NICSI empanelled e-Governance professional Service (tier -I) or equivalent State empanelled agencies [NICSI Tier-1 Management/Functional Profile with < 3 years of experience]
2	Data Analyst (Analysis Support) in SPIT	NICSI empanelled e-Governance professional Service (tier -I) or equivalent State empanelled agencies [NICSI Tier-1 Technical Profile with < 3 years of experience]
3	Developers / Technical Staff	NICSI empanelled e-Governance professional Service (tier -II) or equivalent State empanelled agencies
4	Assistant/ Support Staff/Help Desk Staff	NICSI empanelled e-Governance professional Service (tier -III) or equivalent State empanelled agencies

The various functions for which the SPIT would be responsible are as follows: -

i. Close coordination with all stakeholders including DFPD, CPIT, NIC HQ, State officers of F&CS Department, Nodal officers of State F&CS Department, DP/SI (if any) for PDS Computerization, System Integrator of FPS Automation, District Supply Officers (DSO), District Information Officers (DIOs), officers of other Departments (if any).

ii. Assess and monitor functioning of various components of PDS Computerization i.e. Digitization, Ration Card Management System, Online Allocation, Supply Chain Automation, Grievance Redressal and FPS Automation.

iii. Monitor and keeping stock of current IT infrastructure available at State, District, Taluka, Godowns and FPS level which are provisioned for implementation of End-To-End Computerization, IM-PDS scheme and SMART-PDS Scheme.

iv. Preparing training manual and other relevant study material for field staff and support F&CS to organize training and also imparting training to State officials and field staff.

v. Support State/UT Government for customization of SMART PDS modules and implementation of Web Services to integrate State system with SMART-PDS.

vi. Obtain feedback/ approvals from State Govt. regarding customization of the requirements and communicate the same to DFPD and DP/SI's software development team.

vii. Support and coordinate with DP/SI for conducting STQC audit of the Web Services developed for SMART-PDS.

viii. Submit performance report of SMART-PDS implementation to concerned State officials' on regular basis (as per the frequency agreed by State -weekly/monthly basis).

ix. Identify the issues and risks, provide mechanism to resolve the issues and coordinate with stakeholders for issue resolution.

x. Support F&CS Department in preparing publicity and awareness campaigns.

xi. Support States/UTs for undertaking assessment of the project as per the scheme provisions.

xii. The SPIT activities related to coordination with Districts level officers are also to be envisaged and completed for compliance on all levels by the SPIT, i.e. activities related to Ration Cards, FPS Licenses, Monitoring of commodities movement, acknowledgements, FPSs, Distribution of Foodgrains, Grievance Redressal;

VI. **State Governments / UT Administration**

State / UT Food and Civil Supplies Departments would own the project at the State/ UT level. They would be responsible for driving the project and provide leadership to the stakeholders involved at their level. The following roles and responsibilities shall rest with States / UTs: -

► Ownership for implementation of scheme in the State / UT.
► Sign MoU/Agreement with DFPD for implementation of the SMART-PDS Scheme.
► Project implementation including creation of Institutional mechanism for monitoring the project
► Constitution of State level committee for monitoring of implementation of scheme, along with a nominated member from DFPD
► Appoint nodal officer at State level and District level for reviewing and monitoring implementation of SMART-PDS Scheme.
► Support & coordinate with DP/SI for smooth & timely implementation of SMART-PDS components.
► Deployment of SPIT team as per the guidelines issued by Central Government
► Regularly review progress of development/implementation of SMART-PDS Components and deliverables by System Integrator
► Relevant policy changes as required for the development and implementation of the SMART-PDS components in the State covering aspects related to Portability, Data Standardization, Aadhaar Seeding, Ration Card issuance, de-duplication and deletion of ration cards, etc.
► Provide necessary administrative support to System Integrator for implementation & operations of the scheme.
► Ensure regular use of workflow-based application modules for Supply Chain Management , Ration Card management, other SMART PDS modules in terms of updation / entry of data on real time basis
► Report progress of project implementation and fund utilization to Government of India as per milestones in the formats as prescribed in agreement document.

- ► Coordination with selected SI and Cloud Service provider for timely provisioning of Virtual Machines, system software, databases, other requisite software tools for deployment and functioning of SMART-PDS components
- ► Provide appropriate ICT support for undertaking STQC audit of the application software for SMART-PDS.
- ► Participate and responsible in designing , development , customization / configuration, testing, operation and maintenance various components of the scheme.
- ► Make necessary attempt to ensure quality and timely delivery of desired components of SMART-PDS.
- ► Necessary attempt should be made to ensure sync between the captured PDS related data and the hosted data at State Transparency Portals for public access and prepare/ generate MIS reports for the decision makers.
- ► Assist the centre for planning and hosting SMART PDS system in MeitY empanelled cloud environment with Business Continuity Plan in secured environment
- ► Resolution of disputes that may arise between various stakeholders at State / UT level

VII. Central Technical Partner (NIC)

The role of NIC shall be defined as earlier for the period of development of SMART-PDS project related applications, i.e. NIC to continue to work in the same role and in the same capacity, for an initial 1.5 years. Thereafter, NIC shall overtake the responsibility of main agency overseeing the continuing state of affairs, i.e. monitor the progress and impact for as far as development and maintenance of the project particulars are concerned.

NIC shall be responsible for following set of key functions: -

- ► NIC will be technical partner for implementation of SMART PDS.
- ► Selection of System Integrator/ development company, cloud service provider, helpdesk and vendor for setting up command control centre will be done by NIC through government eProcurement process (GeM)/other suitable tendering process.
- ► NIC will lead RFP preparation and finalization of functional and technical requirement for SMART PDS along with Central Project Implementation Team (CPIT) of DFPD.
- ► NIC will coordinate with SI/ System Integrator for designing, development, testing and implementation of SMART PDS Application.
- ► Payments to Development Partner/System Integrator, Cloud Service Provider, Central Command Control Centre will be managed by NIC in coordination with DFPD.
- ► NIC in consultation with DoF&PD shall provide all necessary ICT support as per the approved project for implementation of this scheme for Centre
- ► NIC would support in implementation of the existing applications / software utilities for the agreed project components
- ► NIC shall continue to provide requisite system software, operating system, software tools, databases, hardware server /storage infrastructure in cloud/data centre for implementation of existing components. Service Level Agreement (SLAs) for procuring and providing these services are placed at Annexure

- ► NIC along with the System Integrator shall be responsible for Integration of SMART-PDS with the platform laid by the existing schemes, 'End-to-End Computerisation of TPDS Operations', 'Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) etc. This may include migration of existing data (in standard format), handholding support to States & UTs or their designated agencies through VCs and State visit wherever necessary etc.
- ► NIC to setup an appropriate Technical Group for carrying out the existing implementation and monitoring function post-development of SMART-PDS. The Technical Group may include Technical Committee, NIC resources at NIC HQs, DoF&PD, and those resources participating in States / UTs level teams. This Technical Group shall be solely responsible for the following:-
  - i. Proper implementation of existing schemes till new scheme components are launched
  - ii. Proper and smooth handover - takeover, i.e. launch of new project components of SMART-PDS while subsuming the functions and roles performed under earlier schemes like SMART-PDS
- ► NIC to also appoint dedicated project heads at NIC HQ and States / UTs for close coordination with the respective Governments
- ► NIC would oversee the activity-wise project plan and resource plan as submitted by SI for the approval of timelines to complete design, development, testing, security audit, implementation and rolling out of components of SMART-PDS
- ► NIC would oversee that the components of scheme developed and hosted are as per the project plan approved by DFPD
- ► NIC to monitor and report that the necessary technology solutions developed for the scheme to be integrated, allow seamless data exchange, and should be inter-operable while being based on open standards that facilitate interoperability and data exchange among different products or services and are intended for widespread adoption
- ► NIC shall also ensure development of uniform integration modules (WebServices) so that it can be easily deployed at State's server without need of much customization
- ► NIC to oversee that the SI takes necessary measures for ensuring inter-operability for States/UTs using PDS Network; accessibility of State related data on internet in public domain through a Central portal, executive dashboard for monitoring progress of computerisation, creating and maintaining single unified information system including Management Information System (MIS), etc.
- ► NIC to oversee that the SI shall facilitate maintenance of information and security in its network and databases for the facilities and services as per the current technology standards
- ► NIC to monitor and report that the application software / systems are error-free and developed as per industry standards
- ► NIC to check the veracity of all necessary documentation prepared by the SI like SRS, User Manuals, Implementation Guidelines, etc. relating to the scheme, i.e. the said documentation should be easily accessible to all stakeholders at Central and State level. The documentation may cover implementation, configuration / customisation, operations, backup, maintenance, etc. of various components of the scheme
- ► NIC to check that the SI undertakes that all the relevant source codes, scripts, etc. associated with the scheme are version controlled

► NIC to oversee and control the ownership of all the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of all software codes, data, algorithms, documentation, manuals etc. which are generated as a part of implementation of this project shall reside with SI / NIC and shall be solely owned by DoF&PD

► In same manner as earlier, NIC shall submit Fortnightly Performance report (FPR), as already detailed for the earlier phase as well.

ARTICLE 4 - TERMS & CONDITIONS GOVERNING RELEASE OF FUNDS

The disbursement of funds under the Scheme to States/UTs shall be subject to the following conditions:-

i) Central funds shall be spent by State Government / UT Administration only for operational expenditure on Project Management (SPIT), setting up and operations of command control centre, and hosting of application on the selected cloud environment at central level.

ii) Funds provisioned to States/UTs for utilization of cloud service hosted at Central Level will be released to States/UTs. State matching share of requisite fund for this purpose will be releasedby State/UT to Cloud Service Provider through NIC/NICSI.

iii) Any portion of the central assistancewhich is ultimately not utilised or required for expenditure for the approved purposes, shall be duly surrendered to the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

iv) The State Government /UT Administration shall maintain an audited record in the form of a register solely or mainly for the Scheme.

v) The Central Assistanceby DoF&PD to the State Government / UT Administration should not be disposed of or encumbered or utilized for purposes other than those for which the grant has been sanctioned without prior sanction of DoF&PD.

vi) The State Government /UT Administration shall send proposal to the DOF&PD at the end of each financial year as well as at the time of seeking further releases of instalments of the assistance, a detailed statement / utilization certificate of all funds released to the State Government / UT Administration.

vii) The State Government /UT Administration shall render progress-cum-achievement reports at interval of not exceeding three months on the progress made on all aspects of the Scheme including expenditure incurred on various approved items during the period of scheme implementation.

viii) The State Government /UT Administration shall render an annual audited statement of accounts to DoF&PD.

ix) The audited statement of accounts relating to funds given during financial year together with the comments of the auditor regarding the observance of the conditions governing the funds should be forwarded to the Department of Food & Public Distribution within six months following the end of the relevant financial year.

x) Requirement of creating State Nodal Agency (SNA) as per the revised procedure for release of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and monitoring utilization of the funds released and other preparatory activities are given in Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure's D.O No. F.1(13)PFMS/FCD/2020 dated 12.04.2021 and OM dated 23.03.2021.

xi. The utilization of central assistance for the intended purposes will be looked into by the Accountant General for compliance with the directives issued by the Government of India at the instance of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the specific mention about it will be made in the audit report.

xii. DoF&PD or its nominee/s will have the right to access to the books and accounts of the State Government /UT Administration for which a reasonable prior notice would be given.

xiii. State / UT Government would abide by any directions/advice issued by DoF&PD, Government of India during the implementation and operational phases of the project.

xiv. The State Government /UT Administration shall maintain separate earmarked audited accounts for the Scheme. If it is found expedient to keep a part or whole of the funds in a bank account earning interest, the interest, thus earned should be reported to this Department. The interest so earned will be treated as a credit to the State Government to be adjusted towards future instalment of the Central Assistance.

xv. In case of any dispute on any matter related to the Scheme during the course of its implementation, the decision of DoF&PD, Government of India shall be final and binding on the State Government.
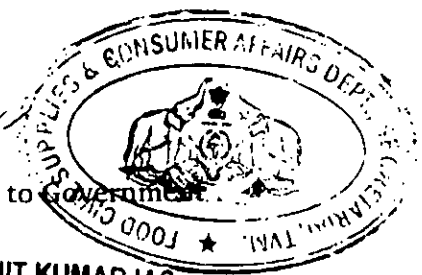

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised thereto by the respective parties have hereto signed this MOU. Signed at New Delhi on this date ....of Month.............2024 in two originals each in English language.
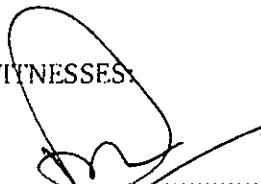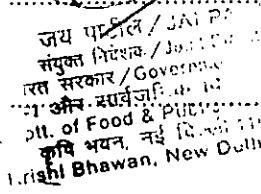
For and on behalf of

Department of Food & Public Distribution
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public
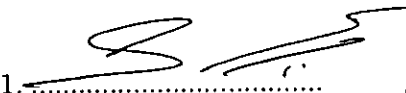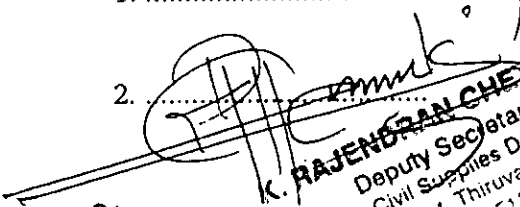Distribution
Government of India

For and on behalf of

Department of Food & Civil Supplies
Government of Kerala
Government Secretariat,
Thiruvananthapuram

Name:

Designation: Joint Secretary (BP,PD)

रवि शंकर / RAVI SHANAKAR
संयुक्त सचिव / Joint Secretary
भारत सरकार / Government of India
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण विभाग / Deptt. of Food & Public Distribution
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली / Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Date:
Place: New Delhi

Name:

Designation: Secretary to Government

AJIT KUMAR IAS
Secretary to Government
Labour and Skills Department, Govt.Secretariat.
Thiruvananthapuram-695001

Date:
Place: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

WITNESSES:

1. ....

जय प्रकाश / JAI P...
संयुक्त निदेशक / Jo.......
भारत सरकार / Governm...
उपभोक्ता मामले-सार्वजनिक / Pub...
Dtt. of Food & Pub..........
कृषि भवन, नई दि.....
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

2. ....

WITNESSES:

1. ....

2. ....

SEENA A.N.
Joint Secretary to Govt.
Food & Civil Supplies De
Govt. Secretariat

K. RAJENDRAN CHETTIYAR
Deputy Secretary
Food & Civil Supplies Department
Govt. Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram
Ph...

Department of Food & Public Distribution