

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.734
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2024

PAN INDIA RATION CARD

†734. SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to implement 'Pan India Ration Card';
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the mode of operation of the said scheme; and
- (c) the roles proposed to be played by the State Governments in this regard?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a)& (b): One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan ensures nation-wide seamless portability of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) foodgrains distributed by the States/UTs. Through this technology driven reform, around 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries, are empowered to lift their entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice, anywhere in the country, by using their same existing ration card with biometric authentication on an electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device. The family back home can also lift the part of the PMGKAY ration in the home State/UT on the same ration card. So far, this reform is enabled in all 36 States/UTs, across the country, covering almost 100% PMGKAY population (around 80 Crore).

To avail the facility of ration cards portability under ONORC, the migrant NFSA beneficiaries (migrant workers/labourers) are not required to upgrade their ration cards or obtain a new ration card. The beneficiaries can seamlessly use their existing same ration card/ copy of same ration card/ or by simply quoting either their ration card number or Aadhaar number to any ePoS enabled FPS dealer and lift their part/full foodgrains as per the entitlement of their ration card. Hence, there is no such plan formulated by the Government to implement a separate 'Pan India Ration Card'.

(c): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) 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 up to the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries/families, issuance of ration cards to them, timely distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Central Government regularly monitors the foodgrain distribution in States/UTs and issues suitable advisories from time to time.
