

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4161  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2000  
PDS FOR ILLEGAL MIGRANTS  
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;RAM JEEVAN SINGH

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

- (a) whether foreign nationals and illegal migrants in the country are also beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the estimated number of such beneficiaries of PDS;
- (c) whether the Government have laid down any policy or guidelines in this respect; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ( SHRI CHAUHAN )

(a), (b), (c) & (d) : The operational responsibility for implementing the Public Distribution System (PDS) rests with the State Governments/UT Administrations. Decisions regarding issue of ration cards, eligibility criteria , renewal of ration cards , etc. are matters which fall within the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments/UTs. Ration cards are issued by States/UTs to bona fide residents of the State/UT. Issue of Ration card is not meant to confer any benefit other than access to the PDS. Illegal aliens residing in the country are not issued ration cards. It is possible that some illegal immigrants might have managed to get ration cards on the basis of false declaration in some of States. The State Governments have been advised to issue ration cards after detailed verifications of the antecedents of the individuals so that the benefit under PDS are not diverted into ineligible hands. Central Government has also been advising the State Governments/UT Administrations to weed out bogus ration cards.