

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5104

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010

NON-ISSUANCE OF RATION CARDS

Singh Rajkumari Ratna;Sinh Dr. Sanjay;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether complaints regarding a large number of poor eligible people being deprived of their entitlement under the Public Distribution System (PDS) due to lack of ration cards have been received by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with the concerned States or issued any advisories in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto; and
- (e) the machinery available with the Union Government to monitor and ensure proper functioning of PDS in the States?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (e): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor is operated under joint responsibility of Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on poverty estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over & monitoring of functioning of fair price shops rest with the concerned States & UT Governments.

Complaints as and when received by the Government about malpractices in TPDS, including issuance of ration cards to ineligible persons, denial of ration cards to eligible beneficiaries and diversion/leakages of foodgrains are sent to the concerned State/Union Territory (UT) Governments for enquiry and necessary action.

To streamline the functioning of TPDS, in consultation with the State Governments, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which inter-alia includes continuous review of BPL/AAY lists and elimination of bogus/ineligible ration cards. As a result of implementation of this action plan, 23 State/UT Governments have reported by 31.03.2010, deletion of 173.83 lakhs bogus/ineligible ration cards.

Further instructions have been issued to all State/UT Governments to take action against persons found in possession and responsible for issuance of bogus/ineligible ration cards.

For better coordination between Central Government and State/UT Governments for implementing TPDS and other Schemes, an arrangement of field visits by Senior Officers of the Department was introduced in the year 2000. These Officers are termed as Area Officers and specific States and UTs are assigned to them for field visits. The Area Officers make field visits in the assigned States/UTs to assess functioning of TPDS and progress of Schemes. Field visits of officers brings feed-back on TPDS and other Schemes, which is shared with concerned State and UT Governments for improvement.