

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:150

ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010

BIO-METRIC RATION CARDS

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan; Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar; Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane; Reddy Shri Komatireddy Raj Gopal; Singh Chaudhary Lal

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

- (a) the number of bogus ration cards detected and eliminated during each of the last three years and the current year, Statewise;
- (b) the action taken against the persons/ officers held responsible for the same;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to issue Bio-metric cards to check such fake cards;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be introduced in all the States; and
- (e) the other steps taken to detect and eliminate bogus cards and ineligible beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System?

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 streamline the functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which inter-alia includes continuous review of Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards.

A Statewise statement indicating the number of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted during each of the last three years and the current year is at Annexure.

(b) to (e) : 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 upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 mandates the State/UT Governments to issue distinctive ration cards to Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and to conduct periodical review and checking of ration cards, to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in the ration cards.

In respect of persons held responsible, State/UT Governments have reported action such as cancellation of bogus/ineligible ration cards, lodging of criminal cases, etc. Departmental action including suspension, lodging of FIR, recovery action, has been reported by States/UTs in respect of staff held responsible for issue of bogus ration cards.

Instructions have been issued to all States/UT Governments to take action as per law against the families /persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and also against officials found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons.

Instructions have also been issued to all State/UT Governments to carry out an intensive campaign from October, 2009 to December, 2009 to review the existing lists of BPL/AAY families and eliminate ineligible/bogus ration cards.

Government has regularly reviewed and also has issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter and use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools.

To improve quality of delivery of services under TPDS and to assess reliability of new technologies, a pilot scheme on Smart Card based delivery of essential commodities was approved for Chandigarh UT and Haryana. Under the scheme, existing ration cards are to be replaced by Smart Cards. These Smart Cards as well as Smart Card transaction terminals will store details of transactions of TPDS commodities issued. The delivery of essential commodities to Smart Card holder's families will be made from the fair price shops only after verification of genuineness of the smart card holder through smart card transaction terminal. The smart cards as well as smart card transaction terminals will store details of transactions of TPDS commodities issued.

After evaluating the results of the pilot implementation, the scheme will be rolled out in other States/UTs.