

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1275

ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010

**FORGED RATION CARDS**

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched a campaign to detect and eliminate bogus/forged ration cards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of fake cards detected and eliminated during the said campaign, Statewise;
- (c) the action taken against the defaulters;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to initiate penal action against those who do not surrender the fake cards; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the response received so far in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): 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 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 Governments.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 mandates the State/UT Governments to issue ration cards to eligible applicants and to conduct periodical checking of ration cards to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards as well as bogus units in ration cards.

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 to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards. Instructions were also 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. As a result of implementation of this Action Plan, 25 State/UT Governments have reported by 30.09.2010, deletion of 178.87 lakhs bogus/ineligible ration cards. A statement showing Statewise number of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted by the State/UT Governments with effect from July 2006 onwards is at Annexure.

Special instructions were issued in January, 2008 to all State/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. State/UT Governments have reported action such as cancellation of bogus/ineligible ration cards, lodging of criminal cases, etc.

In view of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 31.08.2010, instructions have also been issued to all State/UT Governments to issue warning to the bogus card holders, through advertisements in the newspapers, to surrender the bogus cards, otherwise criminal prosecution may be initiated against them.