

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4380
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010
RATION CARDS TO WOMEN
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether a large number of single women particularly widows, working women and socially marginalised ones in the country have not been provided ration cards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

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 (c): Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 mandates the State/UT Governments to ensure that no eligible applicant is denied a ration card under the Public Distribution System. It also requires 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. Identification of households is done based on a socio-economic survey, which include single women, working women and those socially marginalized apart from others. However, separate details of such families are not maintained.

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 had 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.