

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:180

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011

BPL CARDS

Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Rama Devi Smt.

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

- (a) whether discrepancies/irregularities in issuance of Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards have been reported from several States/UTs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of bogus cards detected during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the loss incurred on account of such cards, State-wise;
- (c) the remedial steps taken to check bogus cards and ensure issuance of cards to eligible beneficiaries;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to increase the allocation of foodgrains to the States in view of the increased number of beneficiaries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (e): Evaluation studies on implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) have reported inclusion/exclusion errors in issuance of Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards in some States/UTs. A statement showing State-wise number of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted during the last three years and current year as reported by States/UTs is at Annexure.

In terms of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, State/UT Governments are to review the lists of BPL and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. The exercise of deletion of bogus/ineligible cards and inclusion of eligible families is a continuous process and State Governments are to periodically carry out the same.

In consultation with the State/UT 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 alongwith strict action to be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. State/UT Governments were requested to initiate penal action against the Government staff found responsible for issuing bogus/ineligible ration cards and the families/persons possessing such ration cards. Instructions were 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. 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.

Government allocates foodgrains to States/Union Territories (UTs) for distribution to BPL families, including AAY families @ 35 kg per family per month. Allocation of foodgrains to Above Poverty Line (APL) families are also made depending upon the availability of foodgrains in the central pool and the past offtake. Further, adhoc additional allocations of foodgrains for BPL (including AAY) and APL families are also being made to the States/UTs to meet their additional requirements. Details of these adhoc additional allocations of foodgrains made are as under:

(i) 2010-11 136.72 lakh MTs

(ii) 2011-12 123.67 lakh MTs.