

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:149

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012

BPL CARDS

Chacko Shri P.C.;Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Ganpatrao Shri Jadhav Prataprao;Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Mandal Shri Mangani Lal;Rama Devi Smt.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any reports/complaints regarding large scale prevalence of bogus ration cards and denial of cards to eligible persons in different parts of the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey or inspection in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof alongwith the corrective steps taken in this regard, State-wise;
- (d) whether any directions have been issued to the States to review the list of Public Distribution System (PDS) beneficiaries in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Union Government to remove discrepancies in the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto, State-wise; and
- (f) the mechanism put in place to check such malpractices in future?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of Central Government and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The 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 lifting and distributing the allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible card holders through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are of the State/UT Governments.

There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in certain areas/States including prevalence of bogus ration cards and denial of cards to eligible persons. As and when such complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they have been sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. State-wise details of complaints received are at Annexure-I

In terms of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001, State/UT Governments are to review the lists of BPL and 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.

Further, 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 also 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 ration card holders, through advertisements in the newspapers, to surrender the bogus cards.

As a result thereof, 26 State/UT Governments have reported by 31.12.2011, deletion of 221.64 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards. A statement showing State-wise number of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted by the State/UT Governments since July, 2006 upto December, 2011 is at Annexure-II.