

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3169

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012

BOGUS RATION CARDS

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Bogus Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards and also such cases in the name of VIPs have been detected in some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Union Government had directed the States to review the list of BPL and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries and put in place an efficient and real time management information system to eliminate bogus cards and reduce leakages in the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto indicating the name of the States where such a system has been successfully put in place;
- (e) the steps taken to ensure that the system is implemented in all the States; and
- (f) the other steps taken to streamline PDS to eliminate fake cards?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in certain areas/States including prevalence of bogus ration cards. 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. However, no such case of bogus Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration card in the name of VIPs has come to the notice of the Government.

In terms of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, State/UT Governments are to review the lists of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya 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.

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 31.03.2012, deletion of 248.05 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 March, 2012 is at Annexure-II.

As regards implementation of real time management information system to eliminate bogus cards and reduce leakages under TPDS, digitization of ration cards is a primary step for computerization of PDS so as to ensure correct identification of beneficiaries, de-duplication of bogus / ineligible ration cards and distribution of PDS commodities to the deserving beneficiaries. Some States/UTs like Andhra Pradesh, A&N Islands, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have reported that they have already completed the digitization of ration cards.

Strengthening and streamlining of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY Families,

ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, and introduction of new technologies such as Computerisation of TPDS operations at various levels and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.