

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:847

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012

BPL RATION CARDS .

Chanabasappa Shri Udasi Shivkumar;Harnsrajbhai Shri Radadiya Vitthalbhai ;Hussain Shri Syed Shah Nawaz;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.;Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

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

(a) the number of fake/bogus Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards detected and eliminated along with the number of persons/officials against whom action has been taken for possession/issuance of such cards during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has issued any directives to the State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to issue BPL ration cards to all the eligible homeless persons in urban areas of the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): A statement indicating number of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted by the State Governments/Union Territory(UT) Administrations during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure. State-wise details of number of persons/officials against whom action has been taken for possession/issuance of such cards during each of the last three years and the current year is not available and the same is being collected from States/UTs. Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 mandates the State Governments /UT Administrations 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 Below Poverty line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (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 bogus/ ineligible ration cards. 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. 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. Upto 30.09.2012, 31 States/UTs have reported issuance of warning to the bogus ration card holders through advertisements in the newspapers.

(d): As per Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, State/UT Governments shall ensure that no eligible applicant is denied a ration card under the Public Distribution System. Further, in terms of the said Order, identification of BPL families is to be undertaken by the respective States/UTs. Government has advised State/UT Governments to launch a special drive to identify and issue ration cards to AAY/BPL families who have not been issued ration cards or have not yet been included under AAY/BPL list, as per the existing guidelines and subject to the accepted numbers of AAY/BPL families. However, no specific instruction relating to issuance of ration cards to homeless persons in urban areas has been issued.