

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1894  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009  
DIGITAL RATION CARDS  
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**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce digitalised identity cards similar to ATM Debit Cards in place of Ration Cards to prevent malpractices in the Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other steps taken to check malpractices in Public Distribution System?

**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),(b)&(c): In order to make delivery of services more efficient under Targeted Public Distribution System Government has approved in December 2008 implementation of a pilot scheme on smart cards based TPDS in Chandigarh and Haryana. Under it, eligible BPL families would be issued smart cards in place of existing ration cards. These smart cards will have biometric features of family members, based on which verification of genuineness of the BPL families will take place and thereafter only the essential commodities would be issued to them from fair price shops.

For commencing implementation of smart card based delivery of essential commodities, work is in progress by implementing agencies i.e. Government of Haryana, Chandigarh UT Administration and National Informatics Centre.

For checking malpractices under Targeted Public Distribution System, Government has directed State/UT Governments to take up the following measures:

A. to strengthen monitoring and vigilance by-

- i) implementation of the Nine Point Action Plan;
- ii) taking action against those with Bogus Ration Cards; and
- iii) ensuring greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)/Urban Local Bodies in functioning of Fair Price Shops.

B. to ensure increased transparency in functioning of TPDS by-

- i) adoption and implementation of revised Model Citizens' Charter;
- ii) introduction of monthly certification of delivery of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops and their distribution to ration card holders;
- iii) taking up publicity-cum-awareness Campaign on TPDS; and
- iv) display of allocation of foodgrains – district and FPS wise on websites for public scrutiny.

C. to use ICT tools such as-

- i) computerisation of TPDS Operations;
- ii) pilot scheme on Smart Card based Operations in Haryana and Chandigarh;
- iii) piloting of new technologies for tracking movement of vehicles transporting TPDS Commodities.

D. to improve efficiency of FPS operations through-

- i) doorstep delivery of foodgrains;
- ii) ensuring timely availability of foodgrains;
- iii) distribution of wheat flour/fortified wheat flour under TPDS;
- iv) allotment of Fair Price Shops to Institutions and Groups;
- v) sale of non-PDS items by FPS licensees, and
- vi) revision of commission to FPS licensees.