

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3057  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009  
BOGUS RATION CARDS  
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

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

- (a) whether several instances of issuance of ration cards to illegal migrants including Bangladeshis have been reported recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the steps taken by the Union Government for detection and elimination of such ration cards;
- (c) whether steps have been taken to detect the source of such cards and fix responsibilities in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken in this regard?

**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)to(d): TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for identification of eligible families living below poverty line and issuance of rations cards to them rest with the concerned State/UT Government. The information about instances of issuance of ration cards to illegal migrants including Bangladeshis is being ascertained from State/UT Governments.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, has been issued by the Government of India on 31st August, 2001. Clause 4 of this Order and paragraph 2 of Annexe to it provide guidelines to the State Governments/UT Administrations to issue distinctive ration cards to Above Poverty Line (APL), BPL and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and to conduct periodical review and checking of ration cards, to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards.

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.

Special instructions were issued in January, 2008 to all States/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.

As a result of these directions, State/UT Governments have been taking action to detect and delete fake/bogus/ineligible BPL and AAY rations cards. Since July, 2006 onwards, 17 State/UT Governments have reported detection and deletion of 159.42 lakh fake/bogus/ineligible ration cards.

Further instructions have also been 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.