

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:340
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014
NEW RATION CARDS
Kaswan Shri Rahul

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued new Ration Cards to improve the functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the complaints have been received indicating that PDS items are not being distributed as per the new ration cards in the States including Rajasthan and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide food material and kerosene oil in sufficient quantity and in convenient manner to the persons/farmers particularly in desert and rural areas of Rajasthan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

(a) & (b): The issuance of new ration cards, their modification, deletion, etc. is a continuous process to be undertaken by State/UT Governments. Complaints regarding irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including non distribution of TPDS foodgrains due to various reasons are received in the Department from time to time. As the operational responsibility for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rests with the concerned State/UT Governments, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

As per report received from State Government of Rajasthan, a 'Ration Card Campaign' to provide digitized ration card to the consumers of the State was started by the State Government in the year 2012. As per State Government orders, items under TPDS continue to be distributed on the basis of old ration cards till the distribution of new digitized ration cards is completed in the State.

(c) & (d): Under the TPDS, foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarsegrains) are allocated to States/UTs for distribution by them to the eligible households. The identification of eligible households and distribution of allocated foodgrains within the State/UT is undertaken by respective State/UT Government. The Government has enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013 under which, in the State of Rajasthan, 69.09% of the population in rural areas and 53% of the population in urban areas is eligible to receive foodgrains at highly subsidized prices. Implementation of the Act has started in the State of Rajasthan from October, 2013.

As reported by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, quarterly allocation of Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) is made to the States/UTs under PDS on historical basis for the purpose of cooking and illumination as provided under the SKO Control Order, 1993. Further distribution of the PDS SKO allotted to the respective State/UT within its territory is the responsibility of the respective State/UT Government. The scale and criteria of PDS SKO distribution are also decided by the respective States/UTs.