

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
ISSUE OF BPL RATION CARDS .

1124

Dr. Anil Kumar Sahani

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

-

- (a) whether against 6.25 crore accepted number of BPL families, the State Governments have issued 11.12 crore BPL ration cards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken to finalise the actual number of BPL families in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken to cancel BPL ration cards issued to ineligible persons?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food & Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.44 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

However, the State/UT Governments have reported (upto 31.01.2011) issue of 10.76 crore ration cards for BPL/AAY families. The higher number of BPL ration cards issued by them is due to improper targeting of the poor households and have inclusion as well as exclusion errors.

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

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. 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 ineligible/bogus ration cards. As a result of implementation of this Action Plan, 26 State/UT Governments have reported by 31.01.2011, deletion of 208.57 lakhs bogus/ineligible ration cards. 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.