

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 681
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08th FEBRUARY, 2019

STARVATION DEATHS

681. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

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

- (a) whether many households are excluded from the Public Distribution System as ration card quotas are based on the 2011 Census, if so, whether Government has prepared any plan to tackle this issue;
- (b) the number of Antyodaya ration cards cancelled in the financial year 2018-19, till date and procedure followed by Government for cancelling ration cards;
- (c) whether the list of cancelled ration cards is available in the public domain, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of reported starvation deaths since 2014, State-wise; and
- (e) the measures Ministry has taken on cases of starvation deaths and to prevent such deaths in the future?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) came in force w.e.f. 5th July 2013. The Act is implemented across the country, and provides coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains. Thus 81.34 crores persons of the country as per census 2011 may be covered under the NFSA.

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As per Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2015, State/UT Governments are required to review the lists of beneficiaries every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. As per the TPDS (Control) Order and technology led reforms in PDS, State/UT Governments are able to detect and delete ineligible/ fake/ duplicate ration cards and as also due to migration/death(s) of beneficiaries, change in economic status of household, etc. As reported by States/UTs, till date, a total of 7.62 Lakh ration cards have been deleted in the year 2018.

(c): Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them, allocation & distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs and the supervision over & monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. The list of cancelled ration cards is made available in the public domain by the concerned State/UT Government.

(d): A few reports have of-late appeared in the media alleging starvation deaths in some States, but on inquiry, the allegations of death due to starvation have not been substantiated.

(e): This Department has issued clear instructions to all States/UTs that no person/household shall be deleted from the list of eligible households and denied of subsidized foodgrain under NFSA only on the ground of not possessing of Aadhaar number. Instructions are also issued for providing foodgrains even in the event of authentication failure through alternative mechanisms.
