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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.393
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2022

CANCELLATION OF RATION CARDS

393 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:
SHRI JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION **उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री** be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than three crore ration cards have been cancelled so far for not being linked with Aadhaar;

(b) if so, details thereof and the reasons therefor during last three years, year-wise along with number of cancelled ration cards which belonged to Adivasi/marginalised communities;

(c) whether there have been cases where finger-print/iris scanner for Aadhaar verification has not worked in remote/rural/tribal areas and that has led to the cancellation;

(d) if so, Government plan to avoid such incorrect cancellations; and

(e) the number of ration cards registered for migrant workers in each of four metro cities during the last three years?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b): Under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), the non-linking of beneficiaries Aadhaar is not a ground for cancellation or deletion of their ration cards. Further, Department has extended the timeline given to the States/UTs under the Notification dated 08/02/2017 (as amended from time to time) issued in exercise of Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act 2016, for completing the Aadhaar seeding of ration cards up to 31/03/2022. However, as part of regular technology driven TPDS operations, and due to the digitization of ration cards data in all States/UTs, continuous de-duplication digital data, permanent migration/deaths of beneficiaries, identification of ineligible/duplicate/fake ration cards, etc. the States/UTs have reported the cancellation of about 4.28 Crore such bogus ration cards during the period 2014 to 2021 so far. Accordingly, the year wise number of cancelled ration cards during the last three years, regardless of social status, is shown in the table below:

Year	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
No. of bogus ration cards cancelled (in Lakhs)	59.9	24.2	22.3

.....2/-

(c) & (d): As per the extant instructions of the Department dated 24.10.2017 and 08.11.2018, all States/UTs have been advised that no genuine beneficiary/household shall be deleted from the list of eligible households and shall not be denied their entitled quota of foodgrains under NFSA for want of Aadhaar number or only on the ground of not possessing an Aadhaar number, failure of biometric authentication due to network/ connectivity/ linking issues or any other technical reasons etc.

(e): The technology driven One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan under Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, allows all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, to seamlessly access and lift their entitled foodgrains from any electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device enabled Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country by using their existing/same NFSA ration cards with biometric/Aadhaar authentication at the time of lifting the foodgrains. As such there is no requirement of registration for portability of ration cards under ONORC.

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