

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2001
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2023

AUTHENTICATION FAILURE IN LINKING RATION CARD WITH AADHAAR

2001 DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:
SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that as per CAG report, one of the major issues in accessing services from the Public Distribution System is of authentication failure due to faulty Aadhar and biometric system;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken to mitigate the same;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is aware of the plight of divorced women, who are unable to get the ration cards because of lack of documents; and
- (e) if so, the details of steps taken to overcome it?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) to (c): In pursuance to the provisions of Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, this Department has issued a notification to States/UTs (which is amended from time to time) for linking of Aadhaar numbers of beneficiaries with all ration cards by 31st March 2023. Under PDS reforms, at present more than 99% out of total 19.7 Crore ration cards under NFSA have been seeded with Aadhaar number. In this regard, it is submitted that the use of Aadhaar / biometric authentication of beneficiaries for distribution of subsidized foodgrains is not made mandatory. In this context, Department has issued advisories to all States/UTs that no genuine beneficiaries/households shall be denied from their entitled foodgrains under NFSA, only on the ground of not possessing an Aadhaar number, or due to any technical failure of PoS device including failure of Aadhaar biometric authentication of beneficiary owing to network / connectivity / linking issues.

(d) & (e): As per the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Control Order 2015, the issuance of ration cards & its review, identification of duplicate ration cards and inclusion of genuine eligible beneficiaries / households is the responsibility of the State/UT Government. Further, it is submitted that the benefit of deleted ration cards is utilized by States/UTs for addition of new beneficiaries to achieve the rightful targeting of NFSA beneficiaries, which is subjected to State/UT wise ceiling on coverage under NFSA. This Department has time-to-time issued letters/advisories to States/UTs to launch a special drive to issue ration cards to the weaker sections of society.
