

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2793
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH, 2023

UPDATING RATION CARD HOLDERS LIST

2793 DR. SANTANU SEN:

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

- (a) whether Government is cognizant of the instances of exclusion of families from benefits of ration cards due to delays in the Census 2021 and the outdated estimates from Census 2011;
- (b) if so, the manner in which Government seeks to address the issue and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the criteria to determine an individual's eligibility to avail ration card related benefits;
- (d) whether Government is of the intent of updating the list of ration card holders and remove the cap of 800 million; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) & (b): The National Food Security Act, 2013 provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons.

At present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, 80.11 crore beneficiaries are identified by the States/UTs under the Act. Still, there is scope for identification of 1.24 crore additional beneficiaries under the Act by the State Governments.

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Section 9 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides that the percentage coverage under the Targeted Public Distribution System in rural and urban areas for each State shall be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered in the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the census of which the relevant figures have been published.

At present, no proposal for revision in coverage under the Act is under consideration of the Government.

(c): The Act provides that the State Government shall, within the ceiling of beneficiaries determined for the State, identify the households to be covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana to the extent specified by the Central Government, in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the said scheme and the remaining households as priority households to be covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System, in accordance with such guidelines evolved by the State Government itself. Thus, the criteria for identification of beneficiaries under Priority Households Category may vary from State to State.

(d) & (e): The Central Government issues advisories to all the States/Union Territories from time to time to identify all eligible and poor persons/ households including vulnerable Sections of the Society for inclusion under the NFSA. States are undertaking updation of their beneficiary database so that bogus ration cards get deleted and better targeting of rightful beneficiaries is ensured. Thus, deletion of ineligible beneficiaries and addition of eligible beneficiaries under the Act is a continuous process.
