

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3434
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST MARCH, 2023

INCREASING NUMBER OF RATION CARDS UNDER NFSA

3434 # SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether Government is considering to increase the number of prescribed ration cards issued under the National Food Security Act (NFSA);
- (b) if so, by when the decision is expected to be taken; and
- (c) 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) to (c): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) 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.

Section 9 of the Act 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.

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.