

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3437
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST MARCH, 2023

RATION CARDS IN THE COUNTRY

3437 DR. SANTANU SEN:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that since 2014, over 4.4 crore ration cards have been deleted, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether India is leading in World Hunger statistic being home to 22.4 crore hungry people according to State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report, if so, the details thereof for last five years and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether India's ranking has dropped from 101 to 107 in World Hunger Index, in 2022; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and 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): Around 4.28 crore ration cards have been deleted by the States/UTs during the year 2014 to 2021, due to de-duplication, identification of ineligible/ duplicate/ fake ration cards, or deaths, etc. as per the clause 13 of Section 3 of TPDS control order 2015, which states - **"The State Government shall regularly review the list of the eligible households for the purpose of deletion of ineligible households or inclusion of eligible households."**

List of State-wise and year-wise report of deleted/cancelled ration cards during 2014 to 2021 is attached as **Annexure-I**.

(b) to (d): As per information available in the public domain, India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022 brought out jointly by Concern Worldwide is 107. As per GHI Report 2022 of Concern Worldwide, the composite GHI scores of India have improved from 38.8 in 2000 to 29.1 in 2022. Thus, the country has shown consistent improvement over the years.

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However, Global Hunger Index (GHI) does not reflect India's true picture as it is a flawed measure of "Hunger". Only one indicator, i.e. undernourishment, is directly related to hunger. The two indicators i.e. Stunting and Wasting are outcomes of complex interactions of various other factors like sanitation, genetics, environment, and utilization of food intake apart from hunger which is taken as the causative/outcome factor for stunting and wasting in the GHI. Also, there is hardly any evidence that the fourth indicator i.e. child mortality is an outcome of hunger.

The Government of India accords high priority to the issue of hunger and has been providing foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through State Governments/Union Territory administrations under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).

During the current year i.e. 2022-23, the Government of India has so far allocated 971.26 lakh MT of foodgrains under NFSA, OWS and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

Further, to strengthen the provisions of NFSA in terms of accessibility, affordability and availability of entitled foodgrains for the poor and ensure effective and uniform implementation of National Food Security Act 2013, the Central Government has decided to provide free-of-cost foodgrains (i.e. rice, wheat and coarse grains) to around 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries for one year from 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023. The additional cost of making foodgrains free of cost to the NFSA beneficiaries will be borne by Government of India. Notification to this effect was published in the Gazette of India on 30.12.2022.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3437 FOR ANSWER ON 31.03.2023 IN THE RAJYA SABHA

State/UT-wise report of ration cards deleted/cancelled* by States/UTs during 2013 - 2021									
Sl.	State/UT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	Andhra Pradesh	5,45,987	1,29,202	4,75,023	5,449	15,209	12,762	24,523	13,128
2	Andaman & Nicobar	-	37	7	6	47	421	431	-
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,059	115	4,396	56	-	-	-	-
4	Assam	-	-	1,08,681	42,077	1,35,250	22,412	21,291	11,120
5	Bihar	21,712	16,401	6,291	-	2,18,051	3,92,713	99,404	-
6	Chandigarh	-	-	-	88	-	-	-	-
7	Chhattisgarh	7,10,000	1,43,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	56,834	1,38,967	4,508	4,368
8	DNH and Daman & Diu	-	262	650	272	4,898	577	5,840	1,410
9	Delhi	-	38,496	22,696	3,969	2,56,987	381	518	-
10	Goa	93	1,45,471	10,115	6,146	1,130	888	148	59
11	Gujarat	64,079	45,833	22,119	18,965	95,659	23,038	47,936	11,958
12	Haryana	22,903	43,515	19,648	29,686	2,91,926	-	-	-
13	Himachal Pradesh	235	-	1,148	172	56,858	367	4,376	2,538
14	Jammu and Kashmir	640	3,325	50,709	664	3,428	13,869	13,224	NIL
15	Jharkhand	19	7,914	4,46,025	3,59,793	82,394	60,333	65,234	-
16	Karnataka	6,64,755	7,61,326	1,44,432	3,26,382	73,675	1,09,312	31,753	42,558
17	Kerala	57	-	-	-	3,314	2,543	52,475	1,04,511
18	Ladakh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NIL	NIL	614
19	Lakshadweep	76	872	442	-	5	6	7	33
20	Madhya Pradesh	1,313	-	3,89,124	1,84,673	1,27,441	61,265	1,65,829	14,24,115
21	Maharashtra	85,160	8,20,780	11,55,908	-	12,81,922	6,53,677	1,31,986	36,119
22	Manipur	-	-	-	336	-	-	45,321	15,541
23	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	2,568	10,525	16	-
24	Mizoram	47	53	101	559	107	156	1,443	1,637
25	Nagaland	3,247	-	-	8,521	7,723	18,552	7,304	-
26	Odisha	-	-	6,50,471	35,740	-	-	-	-
27	Puducherry	10,629	56,121	9,886	3,290	3,533	2,093	1,881	1,731
28	Punjab	93,267	-	-	69,945	34,972	94,031	1,79,837	3,305
29	Rajasthan	-	26,329	13,71,230	73,110	8,016	72,276	5,80,241	1,35,283
30	Sikkim	-	-	11,714	1,126	3,377	5,622	6,981	-
31	Tamil Nadu	96,406	1,14,175	84,470	9,089	-	-	-	-
32	Telangana	11,71,354	83,048	5,21,790	41,194	3,101	40,684	12,154	NIL
33	Tripura	11,814	66,236	92,728	-	18,874	552	1,099	490
34	Uttar Pradesh	19,117	2,33,847	25,86,541	44,41,748	43,72,491	41,52,273	8,54,025	4,15,259
35	Uttarakhand	-	1,11,367	89,984	3,18,718	1,26,268	-	-	-
36	West Bengal	16,77,311	21,84,152	-	-	88,593	1,00,151	59,666	-
Grand Total		52,01,280	50,31,877	84,26,329	61,31,774	73,74,651	59,90,446	24,19,451	22,25,777
