

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1805  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2025**

**RATION CARD FOR THE POOR**

**1805 SHRI AMAR PAL MAURYA:**  
**SHRI BRIJ LAL:**  
**SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE:**  
**SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:**  
**SHRI RAMESWAR TELI:**  
**SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:**  
**SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:**

Will the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to ensure that all eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) individuals get ration cards;
- (b) if so, the details of implementation done in this regard;
- (c) the measures being adopted to prevent misuse of ration cards by ineligible individuals and corrupt officials; and
- (d) the corrective measures adopted so far and the outcome achieved from those measures, the details thereof?

**A N S W E R**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
**(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)**

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(a) to (d): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for coverage of upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population thus covering about two-thirds of the total population of the country which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore. Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

Identification of beneficiaries under the Act is under two categories- households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) to the extent specified by the Central Government and the remaining households as priority households to be identified by the State Governments/ Union

Territories (UT) Administrations as per criteria evolved by them, within the coverage determined for the State/UT. There is no Below Poverty Line (BPL) category under the Act.

Under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments, the responsibility for identification of beneficiaries, within the coverage determined for the State/UT and issuance of their ration cards rest with the concerned States/UTs.

The Central Government has issued 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 undertake updation of their beneficiary database so that ineligible 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.

As an outcome of use of technology in TDPS operations since 2013, i.e digitization of Ration Card/Beneficiary database & Aadhar seeding has led to identification of duplicates, ineligible records, deaths, permanent migration of Beneficiary etc. This has led all States/UTs to able to weed-out approx. 5.87 crore ration cards in order to achieve rightful targeting.

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