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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 364
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3ᴿᴰ FEBRUARY, 2026

REVIEW OF NFSA

364   SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

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

(a):   the number of households identified under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) whose ration-cards were cancelled or suspended across States during the last five years, year-wise;

(b):   the number of biometric authentication failures, server downtime incidents or other digital-verification glitches at fair-price-shops (FPS) that led to denial or delay of food-grains to entitled beneficiaries, State-wise;

(c):   whether any review has been conducted on how certification, exclusion errors or rollout of new mechanisms have affected access for marginalised communities; and

(d):   if not, whether Government is ready to conduct a review?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a):   Ration cards are cancelled or suspended by the respective State/UT Governments as part of their statutory responsibility under the NFSA, based on verification and updating of beneficiary databases. The major reasons for cancellation include identification of duplicate ration cards, ineligible beneficiaries as per State-specific exclusion criteria, e-KYC mismatches, deaths of beneficiaries, and permanent migration.

As a result of end-to-end digitisation and database cleansing measures undertaken by States/UTs, **2.49 crore ration cards** have been weeded out across the country during the period **2020 to 2025** to ensure rightful targeting under NFSA.
A statement showing the year-wise number of deleted ration cards, as reported by States/UTs, is placed at **Annexure**.

(b) to (d): No State-wise reports of denial of foodgrains to entitled beneficiaries due to biometric authentication failure, server downtime, or other digital verification issues have been received in this Department. All States/UTs have been consistently advised that no beneficiary or household shall be denied their entitled quantity of foodgrains on account of biometric or Aadhaar authentication failure arising from network connectivity issues, technical reasons, Aadhaar seeding issues, or poor biometric quality. States/UTs have been instructed to follow

the prescribed alternative and exception-handling mechanisms to ensure uninterrupted access to foodgrains.

While no separate, standalone review has been conducted specifically on the impact of certification processes, exclusion errors, or the rollout of new mechanisms on access for marginalised communities, the Department continuously monitors implementation feedback received from States/UTs, as well as inputs from field assessments undertaken under initiatives such as Aspirational Districts visits. Further, under the National Food Security Act, 2013, the operational responsibilities relating to allocation of foodgrains within States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, and supervision and monitoring of Fair Price Shops rest with the respective State/UT Governments.

The Department remains responsive to feedback received from various stakeholders and, in coordination with States/UTs, takes corrective measures wherever required to strengthen inclusion and ensure that eligible beneficiaries continue to receive their entitlements without disruption.

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States/UTs-wise deleted Ration Cards (2020-25)

Sl.	State/UT	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	24,523	13,128	30,94,232	52,610	49,215	50,681
2	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	431	196	950	47	512	102
3	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	1,151	328	268	1,128
4	Assam	21,291	11,120	28,590	38,590	1,61,516	24,381
5	Bihar	99,404	15,678	1,61,809	4,49,525	16,86,266	1,49,043
6	Chandigarh	-	-	684	2,291	207	2,401
7	Chhattisgarh	4,508	10,400	20,715	29,108	57,371	60,496
8	Dadar& Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	5,840	2,454	73	1	151	1,101
9	Delhi	518	448	116	3,686	61,292	11,438
10	Goa	148	805	2,117	5,801	166	3,467
11	Gujarat	47,936	2,19,151	1,32,519	1,35,362	30,889	69,102
12	Haryana	-	-	1,96,174	8,49,972	3,28,557	13,43,474
13	Himachal Pradesh	4,376	2,538	3,299	7,551	9,673	7,400
14	Jammu And Kashmir	13,224	33,677	2,927	5,403	4,767	3,036
15	Jharkhand	65,234	-	75,137	29,771	6,374	67,730
16	Karnataka	31,753	42,558	48,477	74,401	27,105	50,594
17	Kerala	52,475	1,04,511	41,998	40,800	11,555	7,261
18	Ladakh	-	614	30	58	615	764
19	Lakshadweep	7	33	38	89	88	32
20	Madhya Pradesh	1,65,829	9,93,704	98,186	4,96,092	7,04,848	2,60,285
21	Maharashtra	1,31,986	36,119	1,44,985	2,01,676	1,74,342	1,33,469
22	Manipur	45,321	9,411	30,493	9,684	7,215	6,515
23	Meghalaya	16	-	402	1,612	449	102
24	Mizoram	1,443	1,637	3,617	4,115	2,548	742
25	Nagaland	7,304	-	3,428	3,177	3,924	1,347
26	Odisha	-	-	64,122	31,240	19,420	1,21,134
27	Puducherry	1,881	1,731	538	847	898	763
28	Punjab	1,79,837	3,305	1,52,497	1,23,722	7,520	2,290
29	Rajasthan	5,80,241	1,35,283	2,65,390	26,386	1,03,444	6,05,826
30	Sikkim	6,981	-	458	-	604	2,116
31	Tamil Nadu	-	2,00,942	86,150	73,875	63,905	33,339
32	Telangana	12,154	-	4,988	34,064	3,424	1,40,947
33	Tripura	1,099	1,100	1,254	800	467	4,334
34	Uttar Pradesh	8,54,025	7,19,213	9,99,100	7,00,138	8,41,123	5,97,012
35	Uttarakhand	-	49,712	66,627	9,691	4,589	3,014
36	West Bengal	59,666	2,93,326	6,47,003	7,56,860	5,09,952	3,74,519
	Total	24,19,451	29,02,794	63,80,274	41,99,373	48,85,259	41,41,385