

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5111
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH MARCH, 2018

NEW RATION CARDS

5111. DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a): whether the Government has issued new ration cards to improve the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c): whether the Government has received complaints that PDS items are not being distributed as per the new ration cards in the States;
- (d): if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e): whether the Government has formulated any scheme to ensure easy and adequate supply of foodgrains and kerosene oil to the people/farmers especially in the deserts, hilly, backward and rural areas of the country; and
- (f): if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (b) Under National Food Security Act, [NFSA] 2013, beneficiaries are identified under two categories namely: Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) Households, and Priority Households (PHH). Presently, about 23.2 crore ration cards covered more than 80 crore eligible beneficiaries have been issued under NFSA by State/UT Governments.

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(c) to (d) Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Department from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are sent to concern State/UT for inquiry and appropriate action. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of TPDS (C) Order, 2015 is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, the Order empowers State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders.

(e) to (f) : Foodgrains are distributed to eligible beneficiaries through a network of approximately 5.27 lakh Fair Price Shops across the country including deserts, hilly, backward and rural areas. The State/UT Governments are required to ensure that the number of ration card holders attached to a Fair Price Shop are reasonable, the fair price shop is so located that the consumer or ration card holder does not have to face difficulty in reaching the Fair Price Shop and that proper coverage is ensured in hilly, desert, tribal and such other difficult - to - access areas. Besides, Department has also permitted State/UT Governments to lift and distribute subsidised foodgrains upto six months in one installment to beneficiaries for ensuring easy and adequate supply.

As far as Kerosene is concerned, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes allocation of PDS Kerosene to States/UTs on quarterly basis for the purpose of cooking and lighting only. Further distribution of the PDS Kerosene within the States/UTs under PDS network to various categories of ration card holders/consumers is made by the concerned State/UT after deciding the scale and criteria of distribution.
