

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1231
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18 DECEMBER, 2018
BPL CARDS FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

1231. DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD:

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 made any provision for extending PDS benefits to homeless people who don't have any BPL card;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has a detailed list of all the BPL members in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and
- (e) whether any steps have been taken to digitize BPL and APL cards, 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 (e): The objective of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is to provide food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the total population. Coverage under the Act has been delinked from the poverty estimates and is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. Therefore, there is no APL/BPL category defined under the Act.

Identification of beneficiaries under the Act is under two categories- households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (covering poorest of the poor families) to the extent specified by the Central Government and the remaining households as priority households to be identified by the State Governments/ Union Territories (UTs) Administrations as per criteria evolved by them, within the coverage determined for the State/UT.

Government is implementing a Plan Scheme on 'End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations' with the aim to improve the efficiency of PDS Operations and address various challenges such as leakages and diversion of foodgrains, elimination of fake and bogus ration cards etc. Under the scheme digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, online allocation, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanism has been undertaken. The NFSA ration cards have been completely digitized in all States/UTs and digitized details are available in the portals of respective States/UTs.
