

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1095
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH FEBRUARY, 2023**

AADHAAR SEEDING IN RATION CARDS

1095. ADV. A.M. ARIFF:

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 is aware that Kerala has completed 100% Aadhaar seeding of about 3.49 crore members included in the ration cards in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Government intends to increase the number of beneficiaries in the priority category to 46.34% out of the 3.49 crore beneficiaries as stipulated by the National Food Security Act, 2013, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation from the State of Kerala for including 7,06,331 more beneficiaries to the priority category accordingly; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

**A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a): The State Government of Kerala has reported 100% Aadhaar seeding of 40.84 lakh Ration Cards in October 2022.

(b): As per the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Control Order 2015, the review of ration cards/beneficiaries list, identification of ineligible/ duplicate ration cards and inclusion of genuine eligible beneficiaries/households is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government, and the benefit of deleted ration cards is utilized by States/UTs for targeting/addition of new beneficiaries/ration cards subject to State/UT wise ceiling on coverage under NFSA.

.....2/-

(c) & (d): Yes Sir, this Department has received representation from State Government of Kerala in October 2022, for seeking permission to include Aadhaar seeded beneficiaries in the priority category in proportion to the present population, until the Census, 2021 is completed.

In this regard, this Department vide its D.O. letter dated 21st October 2022 has conveyed to the Minister of Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Legal Metrology that Department has already conducted a meeting with National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Registrar General of India (RGI) and NITI Aayog on 6th September 2022 on coverage issue, wherein, it was informed that due to COVID-19 outbreak, the Census could not be taken. Therefore, the present criteria under NFSA, 2013 for determination of State/UT-wise coverage is uniformly applicable for all the States/UTs based on which national ceiling of foodgrain allocation to States is fixed. Hence, it is not possible to enhance the coverage of a particular State/UT including Kerala at this point of time.
