

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4823
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH MARCH, 2023**

SURVEY BY DALBERG RESEARCHERS

4823. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the survey conducted by Dalberg researchers has found that over three fourth of low-income households (i.e., 77%) possess no ration card and if so, the details of the action taken to enroll them;
- (b) the steps taken by the Ministry to enroll the people who are still outside the PDS net;
- (c) whether the Dalberg report says that ePoS (electronic Point-of-Sale machine) based transactions related to ONORC fail many times due to biometric authentication or connectivity failure; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to address the issue?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a) & (b): National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) provides coverage upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains and covers about two-thirds of the total population i.e about 81.35 crore beneficiaries of the country and the coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

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NFSA is operated in the joint responsibilities of the Central and State/UT Governments, where inter-alia, the operational responsibilities for identification of eligible households/ beneficiaries under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority households (PHH) categories of the Act and issuance of ration cards to them, etc. rests with the respective States/UTs. Further, States/UTs are advised from time-to-time to review the existing list of beneficiary households and remove the ineligible households so as to include only the most eligible.

(c) & (d): ONORC plan is implemented in all 36 States/UTs, across the country. The ONORC plan empowers the NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, to lift their entitled foodgrains from any electronic-Point of Sale (e-PoS) enabled Fair Price Shop (FPS), anywhere in the country, by using their same/existing ration card issued under NFSA after biometric/Aadhaar authentication on the e-PoS device. Since inception, more than 102 Crore portability (inter-intra) transactions have been recorded in the country, which shows the wide acceptance of ONORC plan. Further, Department has issued advisories to all States/UTs that no genuine beneficiaries/households shall be denied from their entitled foodgrains under NFSA, only on the ground of not possessing an Aadhaar number, or due to any technical failure of ePoS device including failure of Aadhaar biometric authentication of beneficiary owing to network / connectivity / linking issues.
