

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2918
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2023**

FALSE BENEFICIARIES IN NFSA

2918. DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:

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

- (a) whether there have been instances of false beneficiaries availing benefits under the National Food Security (NFS) scheme;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken any action against such false beneficiaries;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent such instances of false beneficiaries availing benefits under the scheme; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

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

(a) to (f) : The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under NFSA, 2013 is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/ Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/ UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries families, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs),

etc. rest with the concerned State/ UT Governments. As per the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, the review of ration cards/beneficiaries list, identification of ineligible/ duplicate ration cards and inclusion of eligible beneficiaries/ households is the responsibility of concerned State/UT Government. States/UTs have been advised to undertake proper verification (including field verification) of each identified case to ensure that ration cards of genuine beneficiaries are not deleted/ suspended. Further, States/UTs regularly issue new ration cards to the eligible households/beneficiaries in place of cancelled ration cards under ceiling limit of the National Food Security Act (NFSA). As a result of use of technology in PDS operations, the State/UT Governments were able to delete/cancel a total Of 2.09 Crore duplicate ration cards during 2018-2022.

Under PDS reforms this Department had implemented a scheme on 'End-to-End Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations' to improve the efficiency & transparency of the distribution of foodgrains system and to address other challenges such as leakages and diversion of foodgrains, etc. Under this scheme, ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs.

Further, the Automation of Fair Price Shops (FPS) is also being done in all States/UTs by installing electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at the FPSs for the distribution of foodgrains in a transparent manner (electronically) and for unique identification of genuine beneficiaries through biometric/ Aadhaar authentication on the ePoS device. So far, nearly 5.41 Lakh out of toal 5.43 Lakh FPSs in the country have been automated by installing ePoS devices.
