ORIGINAL IN HINDI

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

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.202 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH MARCH, 2022

ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD PLAN

†*202. SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:

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 instructions to the State Governments to issue ration cards to the eligible beneficiaries in a new standard format as part of One Nation One Ration Card plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the beneficiaries under the said plan can get ration from any fair price shop in the country under National Food Security Act (NFSA); and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

A N S W E R MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND TEXTILES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.202 FOR ANSWER ON 16.03.2022 IN THE LOK SABHA.

- (a) & (b): No direction has been given to the State Governments / UT Administrations to issue new ration cards to the National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan. However, as part of the ongoing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) reforms under NFSA, the States/UTs were suggested to adopt a standard format of ration cards as and when they decide to print/issue new ration cards to the NFSA beneficiaries, for the sake of achieving Pan-India uniformity. As such this is not a requirement for the implementation of technology driven ONORC plan.
- (c) & (d): The technology driven ONORC plan for nation-wide portability of the ration cards empowers all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migratory beneficiaries, in the country to lift their entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice, anywhere in the country, by using their existing/same ration card with biometric authentication on an electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device installed at the FPS. As such the ONORC system does not require the beneficiaries to physically carry their ration card to avail the benefit of portability. They only have to quote their ration card number or Aadhaar number to any FPS dealer of their choice.

Presently, the ONORC plan is enabled in 35 States/UTs covering about 77 Crore beneficiaries (approx. 96.8% of NFSA population) in the country.