

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4166
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH MARCH, 2025

DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF NEW RATION CARDS

4166. MS. PRANITI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the delays faced by residents of North Solapur in obtaining new ration cards, increasing units or making name changes and if so, the steps being taken to streamline these processes;
- (b) the measures being implemented by the Government to address irregular ration distribution and ensure the timely delivery of foodgrains to beneficiaries; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the issuance of documents from the Setu office to improve public service efficiency?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) to (c): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under National Food Security Act (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, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS, issuance of license to Fair Price Shop dealers, supervision over and monitoring of functioning of FPSs etc. rest with the concerned State/ UT Governments. This principle of shared responsibility is clearly enshrined in Sections 23, 24, and 25 of the NFSA, which outline the respective roles and collaborative duties of both levels of government.

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It has been corroborated by the Maharashtra State Government that North Solapur Tehsil has attained its target given by the State in accordance with NFSA. The State Government of Maharashtra is making sustained efforts to weed out ineligible beneficiaries, thereby ensuring space for the inclusion of more eligible beneficiaries. It is pertinent to highlight that, as per Section 10 of the NFSA, 2013, the responsibility of identification and regular updating of the list of eligible beneficiaries rests solely with the State Government.

State Government had been earlier facing some technical challenges pertaining to their online portal www.rcms.mahafood.gov.in and issues related to synchronization with the Aadhaar server, which now have been resolved.

The food grain distribution to the beneficiaries is being done using ePOS-based applications to ensure timely delivery and authenticated distribution. The food grain distribution using ePOS Machines for the month of Jan 25 & Feb 25 is 94% & 95% respectively. The State Government has placed special emphasis on enhancing the efficiency of public services through tools such as RCMS and MAHAePOS, which have substantially contributed towards timely updation of records and ensured error-free operations for the benefit of the citizens.
