

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4459
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH AUGUST, 2025

RATION CARDS FOR BPL

4459 SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taking/is taking any steps to ensure all eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) individuals receive ration cards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the measures are being taken by the Government to prevent misuse of ration cards by ineligible persons and corrupt officials; and
- (d) the details of the corrective measures which have been implemented by the Government along with their outcomes?

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

(a) & (b): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is now governed as per the provision of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA).

Identification of beneficiaries under the Act is under two categories- Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households. The Act provides that the State Government shall, within the ceiling of beneficiaries determined for the State, identify the households to be covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana to the extent specified by the Central Government, in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the said scheme and the remaining households as priority households to be covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System, in accordance with such guidelines evolved by the State Government itself. There is no Below Poverty Line (BPL) category under the Act.

(c): The TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The responsibility for identification of beneficiaries, within the coverage determined for the State/UT and issuance of their ration cards rest with the concerned States/UTs.

As and when complaints for NFSA or any State/UT are received in the Department from individuals, organizations, through media reports etc. regarding any irregularities in the functioning of the TPDS i.e. leakage/ diversion of subsidized foodgrains, regarding issuance of ration cards, complaints regarding functioning of fair price shop etc. they are forwarded to the concerned State/UT Governments for inquiry and appropriate action.

(d): The Central Government has issued advisories to all the States/Union Territories from time to time to identify all eligible and poor persons/ households including vulnerable Sections of the Society for inclusion under the NFSA. States undertake updation of their beneficiary database so that ineligible ration cards get deleted and better targeting of rightful beneficiaries is ensured. Thus, deletion of ineligible beneficiaries and addition of eligible beneficiaries under the Act is a continuous process.

As an outcome of use of technology in TDPS operations since 2013, i.e digitization of Ration Card/Beneficiary database & Aadhar seeding has led to identification of duplicates, ineligible records, deaths, permanent migration of Beneficiary etc. This has led all States/UTs to able to weed-out approx. 5.87 crore ration cards in order to achieve rightful targeting.
