

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2875  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025**

**BOGUS RATION CARDS**

**2875. SHRI ESWARASAMY K:**

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

- (a): whether a number of eligible BPL persons have not been issued ration cards as per their entitlement and the benefits meant for them are being misappropriated by other persons using bogus cards;
- (b): if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c): whether Government has launched/proposes to launch any campaign at the national level to eliminate bogus cards and issue cards to all the eligible families; and
- (d): if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

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

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(a) to (d): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) governed under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/ Union Territory (UT) Governments. 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, supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/ UT Governments.

Under NFSA, the coverage of beneficiaries for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been de-linked from the erstwhile poverty estimates (Above Poverty Line/Below Poverty Line) and has been linked to the population estimates under two categories namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH) only.

During 2024–25, the Government undertook a comprehensive data analytics exercise wherein multiple Key Performance Indexes (KPIs) —such as beneficiaries aged over 100 years, silent ration cards, duplicate ration cards and beneficiaries below 18 years with single-member ration cards—were applied to the PDS database. This database was

also cross-matched with datasets of other Government Agencies [Aadhaar, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)].

This exercise flagged approximate 8.51 Crore beneficiaries (2024 to 2025) and list of these flagged beneficiaries were shared with the respective State/UTs for conducting field verification and to take necessary action as deemed fit on these cases. Till date, the respective States/UTs have deleted 2.12 Crore beneficiaries of the above flagged beneficiaries, thus making space for eligible waitlisted beneficiaries.

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