

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 04.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
GUIDELINES FOR ISSUANCE OF RATION CARDS .

1723

Shri Shantaram Naik

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

- (a) whether Government has issued guidelines to State Governments on issuance of ration cards;
- (b) if so, the details of these guidelines;
- (c) whether State Governments have done computerization of the process of issuing ration cards; and
- (d) the details of changes brought about by State Governments to prevent misuse of ration cards, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor is operated under joint responsibility of Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on poverty estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and delivery of allocated foodgrains to them through fair price shops are of concerned States & UT governments.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, has been issued by the Government of India on 31st August, 2001. Clause 4 of this Order and paragraph 2 of annexe to it provide guidelines to the State Governments/UT Administrations to issue distinctive ration cards to Above Poverty Line (APL), BPL and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and to conduct periodical review and checking of ration cards, to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards.

As per existing norms of allocations of foodgrains under TPDS, State /UT Governments have to identify BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March,2000.

(c)&(d): As reported by States/UTs at the end of October,2009, 10 State/UT Governments, namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have initiated computerization of TPDS operations in which the district & FPS wise allocation of foodgrains are displayed on the website.

State /UT Governments are periodically carrying out review of existing lists of ration cards to eliminate bogus ration cards/units in them.

Instructions were issued in January,2008 to all States/UT Governments to take action as per law against the families /persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and also against officials found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons.

Further instructions have been issued to all State/UT Governments to carry out an intensive campaign from October, 2009 to December, 2009 to review the existing lists of BPL/AAY families and eliminate ineligible/bogus ration cards .

Since July, 2006 onwards, 17 State/UT Governments have reported detection and deletion of 159.42 lakh fake/bogus/ineligible ration cards as given in annexe.