

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3679  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004  
FAKE RATION CARDS  
Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Saroj Shri Daroga Prasad

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

- (a) the number of fake ration cards detected during the last two years;
- (b) whether involvement of any employee and/or ration dealers in this matter has been detected during the said period;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has taken/propose to take action against the erring officials; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ( DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH )

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): The Public Distribution System is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments wherein the States are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issue of Ration Cards and their distribution through the Fair Price Shops (FPS). The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 was issued by the Government of India in order to streamline the functioning of the PDS and to make the same more effective and accountable. Under this Order, the State Government shall conduct periodical checking of ration cards to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards as a continuous exercise to check diversion of essential commodities. Any offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order invokes criminal liability under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The State-wise details of detection of fake ration cards, involvement of the employee or ration dealer in this and action taken against the erring officials by the States/UTs is not maintained by the Central Government.