

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:717

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010

RENEWAL OF RATION CARDS

Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben;Singh Shri Ijyaraj ;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has directed the States to review the Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists and renew the ration cards in order to eliminate bogus cards and ineligible beneficiaries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some States have failed to comply with the directions of the Union Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the remedial steps taken in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to introduce biometric ration cards; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)to(d): The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 mandates the State/UT Governments to issue distinctive ration cards to Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (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 the ration cards.

Instructions have been issued to all State/UT Governments to carry out an intensive campaign to eliminate ineligible/bogus ration cards and to take action as per law against the persons found in possession of bogus/fake ration cards and the government staff found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons. As a result of the instructions issued, State/UT Governments have reported from July, 2006 to January, 2010, deletion of 171.91 lakhs bogus/ineligible ration cards.

(e)&(f): In order to make delivery of services efficient under TPDS and to assess replicability of use of smart cards for this purpose, Government has approved in December, 2008 implementation of a pilot scheme on smart cards based TPDS in Chandigarh and Haryana. Under the scheme, eligible BPL families would be issued smart cards in place of existing ration cards. They will have biometric features of the family members, based on which verification of genuineness of the BPL families will take place and thereafter only the essential commodities would be issued to them from the Fair Price Shop. The Union Territory of Chandigarh Administration and the Government of Haryana has been directed to ensure that smart card based delivery of essential commodities gets completed by December 2010.