

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1879

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009

RATION CARDS

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

- (a) whether large scale prevalence for fake ration cards have been reported from various parts of the country including Maharashtra and West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of fake cards detected and cancelled during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the information regarding ration cards has been made available on Government websites in order to check such fake cards;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of the States where such facility is available; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for ensuring increasing use of e-governance in PDS operations?

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): As stipulated under Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, State and Union Territory Governments are mandated 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.

Government got functioning of TPDS evaluated by Programme Evaluation Organization of Planning Commission and ORG MARG, New Delhi. Based on findings of these evaluation studies, a Nine Point Action Plan evolved for strengthening TPDS is under implementation by States/UT Governments since July, 2006. As a part of this action plan, States and UT Governments have been directed to continuously review lists of BPL and AAY families to eliminate bogus ration cards so that only eligible BPL and AAY families get covered under TPDS.

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.

As a result of these directions, State/UT Governments have been taking action to detect and delete fake/bogus/ineligible BPL and AAY 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 per details given in Annex-1.

As per Nine Point Action plan, the allocation of foodgrains – District and FPS wise are to be displayed on Websites of the State/UT Governments. 19 States/UT Governments have reported by 31.10.2009 display of such allocations on their respective websites.

(c)&(d): The details are being ascertained from State/UT Governments.

(e): The Government has taken the following steps for ensuring increased use of e-governance in TPDS operations:

Computerization of TPDS operations:

Digitization of TPDS operations at National/State/District and Block levels has been taken up under a Plan Scheme on computerization of TPDS during the 11th Plan period. The scheme is to be implemented on pilot basis in 3 districts of each of States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Govt. of NCT of Delhi. For this a sum of Rs. 14.775 Crore has been released to these State Governments.

Smart card based delivery under TPDS

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 card based TPDS in Chandigarh and Haryana. Under it, 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 shops.