

Menace of bogus ration cards

*70. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the magnitude of the problem due to bogus ration cards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action plan adopted to weed out bogus ration cards throughout the country and the prescribed time limit for such exercise;
- (d) the details of bogus ration cards identified and weeded out during the last five years, State-wise;
- (e) the details of financial loss caused to the nation due to these bogus cards; and
- (f) whether Government intends to bring in any legislation to deal with this menace firmly?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (f) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

Government is aware of the problem of Bogus Ration Cards. Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 mandates the State/UT Governments to issue ration cards to eligible applicants and to conduct periodical checking of ration cards to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards as well as bogus units in ration cards.

To streamline the functioning of TPDS, in consultation with the State Governments, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which inter-alia includes continuous review of BPL/AAY lists and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards. Instructions had 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 implementation of this Action Plan, 25 State/UT Governments have reported by 30.09.2010, deletion of 178.87 lakhs bogus/ineligible ration cards. A statement showing State-wise number of bogus/ineligible rations cards deleted by the State/UT Governments with effect from July, 2006 onwards is given in Statement (See below).

Details of financial loss has not been estimated and there is no proposal to bring in any specific legislation to weed out bogus cards. However, as mentioned above, the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 mandates weeding out of bogus cards. Instructions have been issued from time to time to weed out bogus ration cards. Instructions have also been issued to all State/UT Governments to issue warning to the bogus card holders, through advertisements in the newspapers, to surrender the bogus cards.

Statement

The number of bogus/ineligible rations cards deleted by the State/UT Governments with effect from July, 2006 onwards

(Updated on 30.09.2010)

Sl. No	State	Nos. of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted eliminated (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.46
2.	Assam	0.56
3.	Bihar	1.51
4.	Chhattisgarh	4.65
5.	Delhi	16.32
6.	Gujarat	8.64
7.	Haryana	0.03
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.02
9.	Jharkhand	0.65
10.	Karnataka	6.45
11.	Kerala	0.00 &&
12.	Madhya Pradesh	24.97
13.	Maharashtra	29.45
14.	Meghalaya	0.00 *
15.	Mizoram	0.02
16.	Orissa	2.50
17.	Rajasthan	0.03

1	2	3
18.	Sikkim	0.01
19.	Tamil Nadu	3.97
20.	Uttar Pradesh	8.72
21.	Uttarakhand	0.16
22.	West Bengal	59.67 (individual cards)
23.	Chandigarh	0.08
24.	Lakshadweep	0.00 \$
25.	Puducherry	0.00 **
TOTAL:		178.87

Actual figures & 114, *341, \$ 300, **16

Higher acreage for better production

*71. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that higher acreage results in better production of various food-items;

(b) if so, the details thereof in the last five years and demand of various food items in each State including in Andhra Pradesh (A.P.); and

(c) the action plan prepared in this regard for the current year to boost the production of each food-item?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Increased area coverage and more importantly adoption of critical inputs such as seed, water, power, fertilizers, improved crop production/protection technologies along with support on marketing, minimum support price and credit significantly increased foodgrains production from 198.38 million tonnes in 2004-05 to 234.47 million tonnes in 2008-09. Production dropped to 218.20 million in 2009-10 due to severe drought condition that prevailed in the major parts of the country. The area and production of foodgrains during last five years is given below:—

Year	Area (in million hectares)	Production (in million tonnes)
1	2	3
2005-06	121.60	208.60