

Fake ration cards

†874. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake ration cards are essentially made through a collusion between Government employees and ration depot holders; and

(b) if so the action taken by Government so far against persons involved in criminal conspiracy of committing a fraud in the Public Distribution System (PDS)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) 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 and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, 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.

TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, stipulate that State/UT Governments are required to review the lists of beneficiaries every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. State/UT Governments have been requested from time to time to carry out drives for reviewing the list of beneficiaries under TPDS. The exercise of deletion of bogus/ineligible cards and inclusion of eligible families is a continuous process and State/UT Governments are to periodically carry out the same. The action against persons involved in criminal conspiracy of committing a fraud in PDS is required to be handled by respective State/UT Government as per clause 13 of TPDS(Control) Order, 2015.

Unfair trade practices

875. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sharing any details of consumers for commercial purpose by companies will be treated as unfair trade practice which will attract punishment under the consumer protection law;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in developed countries stricter penalties are being imposed on companies violating the norms;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.