

adopt a standard format only when they decide to print/issue new ration cards in future under NFSA. So far, the facility of national/inter-State portability under One Nation One Ration Card plan is available in 12 States.

#### **Identification of fake ration cards**

‡728. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fake ration cards along with their beneficiaries, identified by Government during the last five years, on which the benefits of the said scheme were being availed so far in a wrongful manner; and

(b) the number of fake beneficiaries identified as on date and the amount of money saved by Government through it, along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (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 licensing and monitoring of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

As per the Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2015 for implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), State/UT Governments are required to review the lists of ration cards/beneficiaries' details every year for the purpose of periodic updation of the same to include eligible families/beneficiaries and exclude the ineligible ration cards/beneficiaries, if any. As such this exercise of deletion of ineligible/duplicate ration cards/beneficiaries and inclusion of eligible beneficiaries therein is a continuous process. A total of 2.98 crore ration cards have been deleted from the year 2013 to 2018 due to various reasons. Against the deleted ration cards, new ration cards are issued by concerned States/UTs for rightful targeting of food subsidy.

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.