

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1358  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

**MEASURES TO CONTAIN BOGUS RATION CARDS**

1358 SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA:  
SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that shop owners have created a large number of bogus ration cards or ghost cards to sell foodgrains in the open market; and
- (b) if so, the measures that have been taken to restrict this illegal activity?

**A N S W E R**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD &  
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)

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**(a) & (b):** It is stated that the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibilities of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains up to the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in States/UTs, while, the operational responsibilities for identification of beneficiaries/households under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), issuance of ration cards to them, allocation of foodgrains to all Fair Price Shops, distribution to beneficiaries besides licensing and monitoring of FPSs, etc. lies with the concerned State/UT Governments.

Further, under TPDS reforms, database of all ration cards/beneficiaries has been completely digitized in all States/UTs. About 4.94 Lakh FPSs out of total 5.4 Lakh FPSs in the country have been automated by installing electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices for transparent distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries. Presently, more than 70% ePoS transactions are being done through biometric authentication of genuine beneficiaries on monthly basis to prevent the diversion of subsidized foodgrains. In addition to this, nearly 4.39 crore bogus/ghost/de-duplicate ration cards have been deleted by States/UTs during 2013-20 and this is a continuing process for making PDS more efficient and directed towards rightful beneficiary.

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