

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1522
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2021

**CANCELLATION OF RATION CARDS DUE TO NON LINKING BIOMETRICALLY
WITH AADHAAR**

1522 SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE:
SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any measure to circumvent the problem faced by disabled persons and senior citizens in using ePoS systems at PDS shops;
- (b) if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;
- (c) whether ration cards of three to four crores of citizens including tribal and poor people have been cancelled due to non linking biometrically with Aadhaar in different States;
- (d) if so, details thereof and measures taken by Government to include them in PDS to facilitate their access to PDS; and
- (e) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) & (b): Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are operated by the FPS dealers. Further, to ensure regular delivery of subsidised foodgrains to the differently abled and old-age National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries, with no other adult member in the household and who are not in position to visit the FPSs, all States/UTs are advised to implement mechanisms for special dispensation of foodgrains to such beneficiaries, either through home-delivery or through their nominated persons.

(c) to (e): Under NFSA inter-alia the operational responsibilities of inclusion and exclusion of households/ beneficiaries rests with the respective State/UT Governments. The addition and deletion of ration cards is a continuous process, wherein the States/UTs regularly review their list of ration cards/beneficiaries to identify and weed out potentially ineligible, duplicate or bogus ration cards after proper verification, which may also include field/ door to door verification and to include other genuinely eligible and left out households/beneficiaries, which may also include eligible tribal and poor families/ persons, up to their respective limits of NFSA coverage. Accordingly, due to use of information technology for TPDS reforms, digitization of ration cards data, de-duplication process, permanent migration, deaths, identification of ineligible/duplicate/fake ration cards, etc. the States/UTs have reported the cancellation of about **4.28 Crore** such bogus ration cards during the period **2014 to 2021** so far.

Further, non-linking of Aadhaar with ration cards is not a ground for the cancellation of ration cards. The Department has extended the timeline given to the States/UTs, under the Notification dated 08/02/2017 (as amended from time to time) issued in exercise of Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act 2016, for completing the Aadhaar seeding of ration cards up to 31st December 2021. Until then, all States/UTs have been advised that no genuine beneficiary/household shall be deleted from the list of eligible ration cards/ beneficiaries and shall not be denied their entitled quota of foodgrains under NFSA only for want of Aadhaar number or only on the ground of not possessing an Aadhaar number, failure of biometric authentication due to network/ connectivity/ linking issues or any other technical reasons etc.
