

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 66
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08th FEBRUARY, 2019

CANCELLATION OF PRIORITY RATION CARDS

*66. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the priority ration cards of families were cancelled for not linking it to Aadhaar;
- (b) the number of such cases and deaths caused due to the cancellation of priority ration cards in the past three years, Statewise and year-wise; and
- (c) the details and nature of compensation provided by Government to the family of the bereaved?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. *66 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 08.02.2019 IN THE RAJYA SABHA REGARDING

(a) to (c): Section-12 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for leveraging 'Aadhaar' for unique identification, with biometric information of entitled beneficiaries for proper targeting of benefits under the Act.

Also, in pursuance of the provision of Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 the Department on 08.02.2017 notified that for an eligible beneficiary to receive the subsidized foodgrains under NFSA, and having valid ration card issued by State/UT Government, is required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. Initial timeline for completing the seeding of Aadhaar number (of at least one member of family) with all ration cards was 30.06.2017. This timeline has been extended from time to time up to 31.03.2019.

The Department has also issued clear instructions on 24.10.2017 to all States/UTs that, no eligible beneficiary should be denied her/his entitled quota of subsidized foodgrains due to non-availability of Aadhaar number/failure of biometric authentication/any other technical reasons. Also no person/households shall be deleted from the list of eligible household database only for reason of non-possession of Aadhaar number by beneficiary/ration card holder.

Following the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 26.09.2018, regarding requirement of Aadhaar for receiving any subsidy, benefit or service under the welfare scheme of the Government, it has been re-iterated vide this Department instructions dated 08.11.2018 that no genuine beneficiary shall be denied subsidized foodgrains on the grounds of non-possession of Aadhaar.

Further, no incidence of cancellation of priority ration cards for want of Aadhaar number leading to death of any beneficiary has been reported to this Department.

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