

No. 5(1)2017-PD-III
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Department of Food & Public Distribution

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
Dated 7th August, 2018

To,
The Principal Secretary/ Secretary,
Food and Civil Supplies Department,
All States/UTs

Subject: Launch of a special drive to issue ration cards to the weakest sections of the society.

Madam/Sir,

In continuation of earlier reference No. 5(1)2017-PD-III dated 17th November, 2017, it is bring to your kind notice that despite several reform measures undertaken by the states/UTs and the introduction of online ration card management system in most of the states/UTs, there have appeared reports of households/individuals belonging to the poorer segments of the society left out of the ambit of PDS. The first quarterly reports of the concurrent evaluation taken up in 22 states/UTs throw light on the reasons for this situation. They include, inadequate awareness about the process of issue of a new ration card or amendment in the ration card, absence of adequate hand-holding arrangement in the govt. offices or facilitation centers, demand for documents in a piece-meal fashion, insensitive/indifferent attitude of the departmental officials and non-involvement of the Vigilance Committees in reaching out to the needy left-out people.

2. It has been discussed in the review meetings and workshops that a food security programme that covers nearly two-third population of the country can not allow the weakest members of the society uncovered. It should be the responsibility of every Vigilance Committee and the Area Officer in-charge to undertake special drives for the identification of such households/individuals. It can be done by issuing instruction to the VCs that they will have to mention it clearly in the minutes of the monthly meetings if there is a left-out household in the village; and the Area Officer concerned shall be duty-bound to verify all such cases within a period of fifteen days and collect the necessary documents in a village level camp.
3. Quarterly reports of the concurrent evaluation also underline the poor knowledge of the eligibility criteria laid down by the states/UTs for coverage under NFSA. It is necessary for the people and Vigilance Committees to be fully aware of them to take an informed decision. They should, therefore, be sufficiently publicized.
4. In urban centers, such drives should be organized on priority basis in the areas inhabited mostly by the poor and migrant people; it should also be examined if a document asked for the ration card is actually required. Since these people can not afford to lose their daily income to visit govt. offices, it should be ensured that more than one visit is not needed for the issue of a ration card. If there is a need of additional information

or clarification, the departmental officer in charge of the locality concerned should contact the household/individual concerned.

5. Every state/UT now has a time-frame for the disposal of the applications for a ration card. It should be ensured that the prescribed deadlines are not exceeded.

6. You are requested to kindly give a serious thought to these suggestions and take suitable action to extend the reach of the PDS to those who need it most. A report regarding action taken in this regard may also be shared.

Yours faithfully,

 7/8/2018

(K.M.S Khalsa)

Deputy Secretary (BP)

Tele:23383046