

F.No.9(1)/2019-Comp. (E: 367771)
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Food & Public Distribution

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001

Dated:14/08/2020

To

Pr. Secretary/Secretary,
Labour Welfare Department,
All States/UTs

Subject: Promoting 'One Nation One Ration Card' among migrant labourer/workers - reg.

Sir/Madam,

As you may be aware, as part of the ongoing reforms in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the country, this Department has started the implementation of the nation-wide portability of the food-security (i.e. distribution of the subsidised foodgrains) through the ambitious "One Nation One Ration Card" (ONORC) plan.

2. The National Food Security Act (NFSA) entitles more than 81 Crore persons (nearly 2/3rd population of the country as per Census 2011) targeted under two categories, namely, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH), to receive highly subsidised foodgrains i.e. Rice/Wheat through the Public Distribution System. However, in the event of migration of eligible households or some members of the beneficiary household outside their village/town or State/UT, they gets deprived of their food-security benefit under the Act, as the ration cards is tagged to a particular Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the native place.

3. But, with the implementation of the One Nation One Ration Card plan, this challenge has been overcome, as this initiative provides an option to all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migratory beneficiaries, to access their food-security entitlements from any FPS of their choice, anywhere in the country, by using their same/existing NFSA ration card issued in the home State/UT. Beneficiaries may simply produce a copy of ration cards or quote their ration card number or Aadhaar number to the FPS dealer and lift the available entitlements after biometric/Aadhaar authentication on an electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device. At present, this facility is seamlessly enabled 24 States/UTs and remaining States/UTs expected to be integrated at the earliest.

4. The primary aim of this facility is to empower millions of migrant workers/labourers working in various organized and unorganized sectors to seamlessly receive their food security entitlements under NFSA, irrespective of their physical location in the country. A large number of such migrant workers/labourers across the country, happen to be beneficiaries under NFSA also, but they are not really aware of this facility, which may be a reason for only a limited number of inter-State/national portability transactions during the last 3-4 months under the under One Nation One Ration Card plan. Better awareness of ONORC among the migrant workers covered under NFSA would have contributed towards the mitigation of their problems during the recent COVID-19 crisis to a considerable extent.

5. Further, the distribution of free-of-cost foodgrains allocated for migrants/stranded migrants under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (ANBA) has also been on a lower side, mainly due to unavailability of migrants/workers related information with the Food & Civil Supplies Departments of States/UTs, to carry out focused awareness generation activities/campaigning, except in a couple of States where joint efforts of counterpart Food

and Labour departments have delivered some results.

6. In this regard, State Food Departments are already making efforts to reach-out to the targeted migrant beneficiaries for focused awareness generation and promotion of the One Nation One Ration Card facility. Besides, this Department is also coordinating with the Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE), GOI to facilitate sharing of migrants' data base to the States/UTs. However, it is understood that a great deal of data of migrants is maintained by the State Labour Departments which is already mapped with the skills/industry, nature of employment, place of employment and other relevant information. Further, MoLE has also requested the State Labour departments to coordinate and share the village/block/tehsil/district-wise list of migrant labourers/workers in both organized and unorganized sectors with the counterpart food departments which may be fruitful for activities undertaken by the Food Departments.

7. Further, as per the discussion held with MoLE on 30/07/2020, State Labour Departments are requested, that besides sharing of migrants' database with Food Departments, they may also support the ongoing efforts by including focused awareness generation activities in their targeted communication / other IEC activities at the labour camps/sites, SMSs, coordination with major industries/employers, etc. to effectively promote the "One Nation One Ration Card" plan for migrants to access their food-security benefits under NFSA.

8. It is requested that a progress report in this regard may be shared with this Department and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, GoI on a fortnightly basis.

Yours faithfully,

(Ashok Kumar)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel: 011- 23383942

Copy to:

Pr. Secretary/Secretary, Food & Civil Supplies Department, All States/UTs – for necessary coordination with Labour Departments as above and submission of ATR to this Department by 30th August 2020.

Copy for information to:

1. PPS/PS to Secretary, M/o Labour & Employment, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi
2. PPS/PS to Secretary, D/o Food & Public Distribution, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi