

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4135
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH AUGUST, 2026

FAMILIES IDENTIFIED UNDER NFSA

4135 DR. SHIVAJI BANDAPPA KALGE:

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

- (a) the number of families identified under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) whose ration cards have been cancelled or suspended in the country during the last five years, State and year-wise;
- (b) the number of instances of biometric authentication failures, server downtime or other digital verification-related glitches at Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the State of Maharashtra that resulted in denial of or delay in the distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any review to assess the impact of the authentication process, exclusion related errors or the implementation of new system on the access of marginalised communities to the benefits;
- (d) if so, the details thereof in respect of Maharashtra; and
- (e) if not, whether the Government proposes to undertake such a review?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): A statement showing State-wise and year-wise number of deleted ration cards during the last five years is at **Annexure**.

(b): No such instances have been reported to this Department.

The Department has provisioned multiple authentication modes under the Public Distribution System (PDS), including Single Finger, Fusion Finger, IRIS, and Aadhaar-based OTP authentication.

In cases where authentication by one household member fails, other eligible family members linked to the ration card are permitted to authenticate and draw foodgrains. Additionally, a nominee facility has been provided in exceptional cases, allowing beneficiaries to authorise another individual to lift ration on their behalf. The e-PoS devices have a functionality to work in

offline mode with limited/ no internet connectivity. The e-PoS devices are required to periodically connect to the network to synchronize offline transaction data with the PDS online system.

All States/UTs have been advised that no genuine beneficiary/household shall be denied from receiving entitled quota of subsidised foodgrains due to failure of biometric/Aadhaar authentication due to network/connectivity/linking related issues, other technical reasons or poor biometrics of the beneficiary.

These measures ensure that eligible beneficiaries are not denied or delayed their entitlements.

(c) to (e): In order to strengthen the monitoring of NFSA implementation and to provide a more in-depth, incisive and comprehensive empirical evidence on regular basis, the Department of Food and Public Distribution has conducted the concurrent evaluation of PMGKAY during 2025-26. The Report of the same is available in public domain at <https://dfpd.gov.in/pmgkay-concurrent-evaluation/en>.

Annexure referred to in the reply to Part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 4135 in the Lok Sabha on 12.08.2026.

Annexure

STATUS OF DELETED RATION CARDS (2021-2025)						
Sl.	State/UT	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	13,128	30,94,232	52,610	512	102
2	Andaman & Nicobar	196	950	47	49,215	50,681
3	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1,151	328	268	1,128
4	Assam	11,120	28,590	38,590	1,61,516	24,381
5	Bihar	15,678	1,61,809	4,49,525	16,86,266	1,49,043
6	Chandigarh	-	684	2,291	207	2,401
7	Chhattisgarh	10,400	20,715	29,108	57,371	60,496
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	2,454	73	1	151	1,101
9	Delhi	448	116	3,686	61,292	11,438
10	Goa	805	2,117	5,801	166	3,467
11	Gujarat	2,19,151	1,32,519	1,35,362	30,889	69,102
12	Haryana	-	1,96,174	8,49,972	3,28,557	1,34,3474
13	Himachal Pradesh	2,538	3,299	7,551	9,673	7,400
14	Jammu and Kashmir	33,677	2,927	5,403	4,767	3,036
15	Jharkhand	-	75,137	29,771	6,374	67,730
16	Karnataka	42,558	48,477	74,401	27,105	50,594
17	Kerala	1,04,511	41,998	40,800	11,555	7,261
18	Ladakh	614	30	58	615	764
19	Lakshadweep	33	38	89	88	32
20	Madhya Pradesh	9,93,704	98,186	4,96,092	7,04,848	2,60,285
21	Maharashtra	36,119	1,44,985	2,01,676	1,74,342	1,33,469
22	Manipur	9,411	30,493	9,684	7,215	6,515
23	Meghalaya	-	402	1,612	449	102
24	Mizoram	1,637	3,617	4,115	2,548	742
25	Nagaland	-	3,428	3,177	3,924	1,347
26	Odisha	-	64,122	31,240	19,420	1,21,134
27	Puducherry	1,731	538	847	898	763
28	Punjab	3,305	1,52,497	1,23,722	7,520	2,290
29	Rajasthan	1,35,283	2,65,390	26,386	1,03,444	6,05,826
30	Sikkim	-	458	0	604	2,116
31	Tamil Nadu	2,00,942	86,150	73,875	63,905	33,339
32	Telangana	-	4,988	34,064	3,424	1,40,947
33	Tripura	1,100	1,254	800	467	4,334
34	Uttar Pradesh	7,19,213	9,99,100	7,00,138	8,41,123	5,97,012
35	Uttarakhand	49,712	66,627	9,691	4,589	3,014
36	West Bengal	2,93,326	6,47,003	7,56,860	5,09,952	3,74,519
	Grand Total	29,02,794	63,80,274	41,99,373	48,85,259	41,41,385
