

No. 1(8)/2017-PD-II
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Department of Food & Public Distribution

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

Dated: 24/10/17

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

Subject: Aadhaar Seeding with Ration Cards – reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's notification issued vide SO No. 317 [E] dated 8-2-2017 [as amended from time to time] under Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016("Aadhaar Act"), which requires the individual beneficiaries having Ration Cards under NFSA to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication to receive subsidies under NFSA and those who do not possess Aadhaar to make application for Aadhaar enrolment by giving their name, address, mobile number with Ration Card number and other details with their fair price shop owners or through the web portal provided for the purpose by State /UT Governments.

The notification further provides that till the Aadhaar is assigned to the beneficiaries of subsidies under NFSA, the entitlements under NFSA shall be given to such individuals on production of Ration Card and either Aadhaar Enrolment ID slip or copy of his/her request made to State Govt. for Aadhaar Enrolment along with any of the 8 documents listed in the said notification.

2. In the light of the above notification, the State/UT Governments are required to arrange to provide Aadhaar enrolment facilities to those beneficiaries who do not have Aadhaar and link their Aadhaar numbers with the Ration Cards within the time line specified in Para 4 therein. No person/household shall be deleted from the list of eligible households and denied subsidised food grains or cash transfer of Food subsidy under NFSA only on the ground of not possessing Aadhaar. Deletion from the ration card database shall only happen after proper verification of the ration card holder which establishes beyond reasonable doubt that the entry pertaining to the said ration card holder is not genuine.

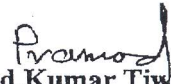
3. As per para 5 of the said Notification dated 8th February, 2017, any member of the eligible household will be entitled to receive entire quantity of subsidised food grains or cash transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA on behalf of the household if he/she fulfills the aforementioned identification requirements, irrespective of whether all members of the household have had Aadhaar number assigned to them.

4. In case of failure of biometric authentication due to network/connectivity/linking issue or due to poor biometric of the beneficiary or other technical reasons, the beneficiary is to be provided subsidised foodgrains or cash transfer of Food Subsidy on the basis of physical production of Aadhaar card by him/her in place of biometric authentication, as provided by Section 7 of Aadhaar Act [“proof of possession of Aadhaar number”], along with Ration Card.

5. In view of the above, it is requested that all the field functionaries in the State may be instructed to ensure that no instance of denial of foodgrains or deletion of names of family from the Ration Card database only on the ground of non possession of Aadhaar takes place and strict action is taken by State/UT Governments for denial of benefits contrary to the aforesaid Notification.

6. Further, it may be ensured that the details of benefits given to persons on the basis of the verification done through the alternate documents as mentioned in the Notification dated 8/2/2017 or in para 4, above shall be recorded separately as exceptions by the Fair Price Shop dealer. The dealer shall also maintain a copy of Aadhaar card, signature/thumbprint of the beneficiary and other supporting documents as have been specified by the State Government/Union Territory Administration. The State/UT Governments are also requested to devise and implement a suitable mechanism of monthly audit and inspection including field verification beneficiaries of such exceptions to ensure that there is no misuse of exceptions as well as no exclusion of beneficiaries.

Yours faithfully


(Pramod Kumar Tiwari)
Joint Secretary
Government of India

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