D.O. No. 14(7)/2014-Comp.(Pt.)

December 29, 2014

Dear Sir,

As you are aware that digitisation of ration card/beneficiaries' data is important for streamlining and strengthening the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for which this Department had been pursuing States/UTs regularly. Recently, this Department had requested all States/UTs to expedite digitisation of ration card/beneficiaries' data as per the eGov standards and seed available Aadhaar nos. vide letter dated 07.11.2014 (copy enclosed).

2. This matter was discussed during the Food Secretaries' Conference held on 3rd and 10th December 2014 wherein all States/UTs were requested to complete digitisation of their data as per the eGov standards along with Aadhaar seeding.

3. At present, most of the States/UTs are either digitising the data afresh or seeding Aadhaar nos. in the existing database. It has been decided that both Aadhaar nos. and Bank Account nos. of beneficiaries' should be seeded in the digitised ration card data. If the beneficiaries do not have a bank account, they may be facilitated by the State Govts./UT Administrations to open the bank accounts under the Jan Dhan Yojana.

4. This Department vide letter dated 18.03.2011 and 13.10.2011 (copy enclosed) had forwarded 'Ration Card Data Standards' to all States/UTs wherein there is provision of capturing additional details of members under a ration card, such as, Aadhaar no., bank account nos., phone numbers, etc. The Common Application Software (CAS) has been prepared and made available to the States/UTs by NIC which is the technical partner of the Department for TPDS computerisation. Time and again the States/UTs have been requested to migrate to CAS and follow the Metadata and Data Standards as prescribed by D/o Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY). CAS has been developed with a long term vision which will help States/UTs to migrate seamlessly to advanced future solutions and share data with other Depths. / States/Programs as and when required.

5. In view of the above, I would request you to ensure seeding of Aadhaar nos. as well as bank account nos. in the ration card database. An action taken report in the matter may please be sent to this Department within 15 days.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Deepak Kumar)

The Chief Secretary/Administrator,
States/UTs (as per list).