Memo No – 573 -FS/O/Sectt/IT-09/2014(Pt-II)   Date :21/02/2022

ORDER

Whereas Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (18 of 2016) inter alia provides that the Central Government or, the State Government may, for the purpose of establishing identity of an individual as a condition for receipt of a subsidy, benefit or service for which the expenditure is incurred from, or the receipt there from forms part of, the Consolidated Fund of India, or the Consolidated Fund of State requires that such as individual should undergo authentication, or furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number.

Whereas Department of Food & Supplies, Govt of West Bengal is continuously trying to link Aadhaar with all the Ration card holders of the State getting subsidized food grain considering the direction of Hon'ble Apex court.

Whereas, till date 78% of active Ration cards have been linked with Aadhaar .

Whereas, it is the top most priority of this Department that no genuine beneficiary should be deprived from his entitled food grain.

Whereas, the Department is continuously trying to cleanse the Ration card database using unique Aadhaar number and data analytics. This is required to bring transparency in the Public Distribution System.

Whereas during this process, dead, duplicate and non-existent beneficiaries are being identified helping the department to spend its budget towards target beneficiaries and prevent leakages, if any

And Whereas, it appears that there may be Ration card beneficiaries who need to be verified due to reasons like holding another ration card in West Bengal/other state, permanent shifting, death, etc.

The department is bringing out following guidelines to be followed in this regards:

1. Cards needing verification would be marked as Red/Yellow in the ePOS machine. These beneficiaries would be able to lift ration only after their verification is complete. **Marking red/Yellow is not deletion of cards.** It is just flagging for verification and reactivation.

2. Verification can be done through Aadhaar linking using eKYC mechanism-
   i) Beneficiary, whose card has been flagged for verification may visit any FPS in the State, any Bangla Sahayata Kendra or any Office of the Inspector, F&S, or for verification, where he/she needs to verify his/her cards giving Biometric (Fingerprint) and Aadhaar Card Number.
   ii) Alternatively, she/he can visit Departmental portal www.food.wb.gov.in and click on the Menu **"Link Aadhaar card with Ration card"**. Where, she can verify by submitting OTP sent to Aadhaar linked mobile (Aadhaar OTP based eKYC).
   This option can also be used for elder person or child whose Aadhaar card has been prepared but Biometric eKYC is not successful due to mismatch in fingerprints. Aadhaar should be linked with mobile for this purpose.

3. Through Aadhaar linking by Demographic authentication-

   If eKYC is not possible due to any reason, she/he can approach the nearest Inspector, F&S. Inspector should enter the Aadhaar number and Name as in Aadhaar against the card flagged for verification. The Inspector however must ensure that the Aadhaar number being entered is of the DRC holder. This Aadhaar number along with some other data will be sent to the UIDAI server for **DEMOGRAPHIC AUTHENTICATION**. Aadhaar linking by Demographic authentication can also be done by visiting departmental portal www.food.wb.gov.in under the Menu **"Aadhaar Linking"** , Submenu – **"Verification vide Demo Auth"**. This provision to capture data for demographic authentication will also be available in all FPS shops through ePOS machines.

4. **Through submission of Aadhaar enrollment certificate to the Inspector F&S-**

If the beneficiary is yet to get Aadhaar, but is already enrolled for the same, he or she can produce an Aadhaar enrollment certificate to the Inspector, F&S. Inspector need to confirm his verification online after selecting the ration card flagged for verification. Inspector needs to select the verification method from the drop down list as VERIFIED THROUGH AADHAAR ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATE. Date of enrollment should also be selected. Inspector has to certify online that he has checked the Aadhaar enrollment certificate physically.

This mode of verification will be valid for three months and the beneficiary needs to do eKYC in the meantime.

5. **Through submission of Birth certificate-**

If any beneficiary needs verification, whose age is less than 5 years, members of his/her family can approach the Food Inspector . Inspector should select the ration card flagged for verification and select the verification method from the drop down list as **BENEFICIARY AGE IS BELOW 5 YEARS.** Inspector should also enter the Date of Birth from the Birth Certificate placed before him. The beneficiary should be motivated to do eKYC through Aadhar linked mobile OTP or through demo-authentication. Once the child attains 5 years of age, eKYC would be mandatory.

6. **By producing any other genuine reason-**

If the beneficiary can produce any other genuine reason, the card will again be reactivated for a period of six months. Following are indicative but not exhaustive reasons for reactivation:

i) If the beneficiary has missing fingers or finger prints cannot be captured, and hence Aadhaar card cannot be generated.
ii) If the beneficiary stays in a charitable home/orphanage and lacks documents for getting Aadhaar.

The beneficiary will have to be physically present in such cases and the Inspector should be personally satisfied about the genuineness of the case. Relevant documents supporting the claim should be uploaded by the Inspector.
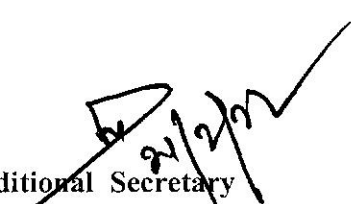
Secretary
to the Government of West Bengal

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Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to-

1. Secretary in F&S Department.
2. Director of DDP&S with request to inform all concerned accordingly.
3. Director of Rationing with request to inform all concerned accordingly.
4. Additional Secretary, Food Cell.
5. Joint Secretary, IT/Food.
6. Sr TD, NIC.
7. DCF&S/DDR (All)
8. P.S to HMIC, F&S.
9. PS to HMOS
10. Sr. PA to Secretary, F&S Department.
11. Regional manager Linkwell Telesystem Ltd.
12. CEO, WTL.
13. Guard file.

Additional Secretary
to the Government of West Bengal