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**Honourable Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy Garu,**

**Subject:** The government's orders regarding the issuance of new food security cards (ration cards) - Lakhs of beneficiaries in Telangana may be left out.

It is reprehensible that your government is imposing restrictions on the issuance of ration cards and attempting to deceive the poor. In the Abhayastham manifesto, it was stated that ration cards would be provided to all eligible individuals, but now you are implementing regulations that limit this to only a few. This is nothing but deception. Without conducting any ground-level studies, your government is sticking to regulations that effectively exclude eligible individuals from the list of Ration cards. We condemn this stance vehemently on behalf of the entire Telangana populace.

It is regrettable that the regulations included in the orders issued by the Telangana Department of Consumer Affairs on 12.01.2025 (Memo No. IT-2/2196/2025) have been framed in a way that distances ration cards from millions of the poor. According to the Memo No.1784/CS.I-CCS/2024 issued by the Telangana Department of Consumer Affairs on 11.01.2025, it has been stated that the orders issued by the KCR government are being taken as standard. Furthermore, it has been mentioned that the regulations from the past, given by the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department (Memo No. 653/Mandals/A1/2014) and the Department of Consumer Affairs (Memo No. 900/CS.I-CCS/2014), will be followed. Implementing regulations that are a decade old in their original form means imposing restrictions on Lakhs of eligible individuals.



Adhering to the regulations that existed on October 10, 2014, would disqualify lakhs of the poor from obtaining ration cards, the KCR government made changes in these regulations.

This included relaxing income and land limits, as per the order dated November 28, 2014. In United Andhra Pradesh, the income limit was capped at 60,000 in rural areas and 75,000 in urban areas, which were then increased to 1,50,000 in rural areas and 2,50,000 in urban areas. Similarly, the land limit was raised from 2.5 acres to 3.5 acres for wet land and from 5 acres to 7.5 acres for dry land, thereby enabling lakhs of the poor to qualify for ration cards.

Continuing with the same income and land limits even after ten years without any enhancements would lead to lakhs of families losing their eligibility for ration cards. For example, the salary of Anganwadi workers was Rs. 4,200 in 2014. BRS government has raised their salary to Rs. 13,650 in three Phases. While their annual income was Rs. 50,400 in 2014, it has now increased to Rs. 1,63,800. Following the 2014 regulations for ration cards would result in no Anganwadi worker could qualify for a ration card in rural areas. Similarly, due to your government's unrealistic regulations, ASHA workers, contract workers, casual workers and private employees find themselves in a situation where they cannot obtain ration cards.

Over the past decade, inflation has averaged around 5.42% per annum, leading to an overall inflation rate of approximately 69.60%, as confirmed by the OECD and World Bank. This means that prices have increased by 1.7 times. If we adjust the income limit of 1,50,000 in rural areas based on inflation, it comes to approximately 2,55,000. Therefore, the limit of 1,50,000 at that time is equivalent to the present limit of 2,55,000. Similarly, adjusting the urban area income limit of 2,00,000 for inflation yields around 3,40,000. We demand that the government revise the income limits for ration cards to 2,55,000 in



rural areas and 3,40,000 in urban areas to provide benefits for all the poor in line with inflation.

The Department of Consumer Affairs in its memo dated January 12, 2025, stated that the list of beneficiaries for ration cards will be prepared based on caste census. This decision has become a curse for the poor people. Since the caste enumeration survey has been stated to be voluntary and not mandatory, many individuals did not participate, and among those who did, many were reluctant to share personal, professional, and other details. In such a situation, announcing that ration cards would be issued based on the caste enumeration survey is tantamount to deceiving the entire populace of Telangana.

The state government received 1.25 crore applications under the "Praja Palana" from December 28, 2023, to January 1, 2024. Reports indicate that over 10 lakh individuals have requested and applied for ration cards. We demand that the ration cards be issued based not on the caste enumeration survey but on these applications, thereby providing benefits to the poorest classes.

The Congress Party with its Goebbels' propaganda while in the opposition, claimed that BRS Govt had not issued a single ration card in ten years. However, even after coming to power, the Congress party is continuing to distort the facts.

With this letter I want to clarify once again that, from 2016-17 to 2022-23, the BRS government issued 6,47,479 new ration cards. Now that you are in power, you can verify these details from the Department of Consumer Affairs. We urge you to stop spreading such false propaganda at least now and to ensure that ration cards provide support to the poor without imposing any restrictions.



In the Abhayahastham manifesto, it was mentioned that Congress Govt would supply fine rice through ration cards, yet even after 400 days of coming to power this promise is yet to be implemented. The then BRS Govt didn't promise in its manifesto but still increased the rice allocated per person in a family from 4 kg to 6 kg, and the limit of 20 kg per family was removed. Within six months of Telangana formation fine quality rice was supplied to mid-day meal programs, gurukul schools, and hostels.

We demand that instead of criticizing the opposition and neglecting on governance, the government should adhere to the commitments outlined in the Abhayahastham manifesto, ensuring the distribution of fine rice through ration cards, providing BPL ration cards to all eligible individuals, issuing new ration cards, and developing all ration shops into mini-supermarkets while offering a honorarium of 5,000 to ration dealers.

  
T. Hanish Rao

Former Minister, Mla Siddipet