

**DR. N. C. SAXENA, COMMISSIONER AND
HARSH MANDER, SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPREME COURT
IN THE CASE: PUCL v. UOI & Ors. WRIT PETITION (Civil) No. 196 of 2001**

April 5th, 2009.

Ration cards/629/Delhi.

Shri. Rakesh Mehta
Chief Secretary
Government of NCT of Delhi
Secretariat
New Delhi 110 001

Subject: Issuing of Antodaya Cards to Urban Homeless in Delhi.

Dear Shri. Rakesh Mehta,

As you are aware we have been monitoring the food and employment schemes of the Government on behalf of the Supreme Court in the Writ PUCL *v.* UoI and Others (CWP 196/ 2001). The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is one of the schemes that we monitor on behalf of the Supreme Court.

We are writing to you with reference to the issuing of the Antodaya Cards to the Urban Homeless in Delhi. The process of identification of the urban homeless was conducted by the Centre for Equity Studies (CES) as part of a MoU signed between CES and the Department of Food and Civil Supplies, Government of NCT of Delhi nearly two years back. Subsequently, CES completed the survey and handed over 15,000 forms to the Department of Food and Civil Supplies.

However, even though nearly nine months have passed, we are distressed to note that less than 10% of the cards have been distributed.

You may recall that the Honorable Chief Minister had distributed around 800 cards to the homeless people in a public function on 14th August, 2008. Not one of the card holders have been able to access their rations using these cards, since the nearest Fair Price Shops as mentioned in the forms have been given the requisite allocation against the cards that have been distributed to the homeless.

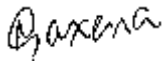
The decision of the Government of NCT of Delhi to issue ration cards to the urban homeless was a landmark step that raised many hopes with this most vulnerable section of Delhi's population. It is therefore imperative that these cards should all be issued without any further delays to them since this segment of the population has never got any significant tangible benefits from the Government.

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You will appreciate that this could potentially be a model that can be taken up for replication across the country and would be the first such instance of a state-civil society initiative to ensure citizenship rights to this most vulnerable section of the population.

We hope that this issue can be settled at the earliest. In case there are any further clarifications that are required in this regard, we would be happy to meet with you and clarify them.

Warm Regards,



Dr. N.C. Saxena



Harsh Mander

CC:

1. Mrs. Jayashree Raghuraman, Secretary to the Government of Delhi, Department of Food and Civil Supplies, GNCTD.
2. Smt. Rashmi Singh, Mission Director, Mission Convergence, GNCTD.