

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5213

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000

DEBARRING OF INCOME TAX PAYEES FROM PDS

ASHOK KUMAR PATEL;DUKHA BHAGAT;JITENDRA PRASADA;K. MURALEEDHARAN;MOHAN RAWALE;RAMPAL SINGH;RASA SINGH RAWAT

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have excluded the Income Tax Payers and creamy layer from the purview of the Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure that benefits of PDS reaches the poor people; and
- (d) the other changes being contemplated to revamp the P.D.S.?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

( SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN )

(a) & (b) : The Government have not excluded the Income Tax payers and creamy layer from the purview of the Public Distribution System for supply of foodgrains, edible oil and kerosene. However, the State Governments have been asked to identify the Ration card holders having LPG connection and to discontinue the supply of kerosene to them under PDS. With effect from 1.7.2000 income tax assesseees and their family members will not be eligible to draw sugar from the Public Distribution System.

(c) The Public Distribution System is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. Identification of BPL families and issue of special cards to them is done by the State Governments. Detailed guidelines in this respect have already been issued to State Governments. State Governments have also been requested that all complaints received regarding non-inclusion of eligible BPL beneficiaries and inclusion of ineligible consumers in the list of BPL population may be examined and corrective measures taken so that the eligible families are not deprived of the benefits of TPDS. Further the State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at Fair Price Shop level and make arrangements for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Detailed guidelines for greater involvement of PRIs in the functioning of TPDS have been issued which include identification of BPL families, display of BPL beneficiaries at Fair Price Shops and Office of Gram Panchayats for public scrutiny. The Gram Panchayats have been made responsible for checking of Ration cards occasionally for its genuineness.

(d) Government has adopted measures to better targetise food subsidy and to enhance food security of the people living Below Poverty Line (BPL). Allocation of foodgrains under TPDS has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month for BPL at 50% of economic cost and allocation for APL has been maintained at the level being currently given to States at economic cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000. In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities in PDS to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner a Model Citizens` Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has also been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption. Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government have also advised the State Governments to more substantially involve Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.