

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:291
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2002
UPLIFTMENT OF BPL FAMILIES
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;KAILASH MEGHWAL

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

- (a) the upliftment schemes being implemented by his Ministry for the welfare of BPL families;
- (b) the number of BPL families identified in each State during the 2001 census;
- (c) the foodgrains allocated to States for distribution amongst BPL families during 2001-02;
- (d) whether several State Governments have included ineligible persons in BPL list of families;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e)&(f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d),(e)&(f) OF STARRED QUESTION NUMBER FOR ANSWER ON 22-03-2002 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution is implementing the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for the upliftment of BPL families. TPDS, with its focus on families living below the poverty line, was introduced in June, 1997. Under this scheme, each BPL family is entitled to 25kgs of foodgrains per month at subsidized rates, which are, at present, slightly lower than 50% of the economic cost. On 25.12.2000, the Government announced the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), which is designed to cater to one crore poorest of the poor BPL families. AAY is now being implemented in all States. Under AAY, each family is entitled to 25 kgs of foodgrains at highly subsidized rates - Rs.2 a kg for wheat and Rs.3 a kg for rice.

In addition to the above, foodgrains are being made available at BPL rates for allotment to the State Governments @ 5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions, such as, beggar homes/Nari Niketans, etc., sponsored by the State Government and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India.

Foodgrains are also available at BPL rates for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category) implemented by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), sponsored by the State Governments and the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organisations like the World Food Programme.

(b): According to the information received from the office of the Registrar General, India, no question was canvassed in the Census 2001 for identification of BPL families. It may, however, be pointed out that the State-wise number of BPL families for the purpose of TPDS was initially based on the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor applied to the population projections of 1995. With effect from 1.12.2000, the base was shifted to the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. A statement indicating the estimated number of BPL families as on 1.3.2000 under TPDS and the number of BPL households identified by the State Governments is at Annex.

(c): During the year 2001-02, 109.52 lakh MTs of rice and 88.74 lakh MTs of wheat have been allocated to the States for distribution amongst BPL families (including Antyodaya families) under TPDS.

(d)&(e): While some States have identified higher number of BPL families as compared with the estimates adopted by the Central Government for the purpose of making allocation under TPDS, some other States have identified lower number of BPL families. The number of BPL families identified by the State Government of Nagaland and the Union territories of Chandigarh and Daman & Diu is the same as the estimates of the Central Government. Attention in this regard is invited to the statement at Annex.

It may be mentioned that many States have identified the BPL families as per the BPL census conducted at the behest of the Ministry of Rural Development at the beginning of the 9th Five Year Plan. The percentage of poor families identified in the said census appears to have an upward bias in the estimation of poor families, as the survey was conducted with the specific purpose of

identifying families for selection as beneficiaries in various poverty alleviation programmes. There are also cases of bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards.

(f): Correct identification of BPL families by the State Governments is the most critical element for effective implementation of TPDS. The guidelines relating to identification of BPL families issued in 1997 emphasised that the thrust should be to include the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society. The States have been instructed to actively involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the identification of BPL/Antyodaya families in the rural areas and the local bodies in the urban areas.

The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, which has come into force on 31.8.2001, provides that the State Governments shall get the lists of BPL and Antyodaya families finalised in a meeting of the Gram Sabha. The lists are also required to be reviewed every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. The Order also casts a duty on the State Governments to ensure that bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards are weeded out.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 291 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 22-08-2002 IN THE LOK SABHA.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TPDS IDENTIFICATION

(As on 14.3.2002)

Sl. No.	States	BPL %age as per expert group, Commission (1993-94)	%age projected as on 1.3.2000	No. of BPL Households identified by the State Govt. (lakhs)	No. of BPL Reported as on 1.3.2000	Date
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1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.68	40.63	113.60		Nov., 2001
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2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40.86	0.99	1.20		9.11.2001
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3.	Assam	40.86	18.36	18.85		6.8.2001
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4.	Bihar	54.96	65.23	61.63		Jan., 2002
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5.	Goa	14.92	0.48	0.08		20.4.2001
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6.	Gujarat	24.21	21.20	33.90		28.1.2002
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7	Haryana	25.05	7.89	6.80		31.12.2001
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8.	Himachal Pradesh	40.86	5.14	2.98		18.2.2002
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9.	J & K	40.86	7.36	5.82		15.11.2001
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10.	Karnataka	33.16	31.29	62.80		26.12.2001
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11.	Kerala	25.43	15.54	20.58		31.3.2000
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12.	Madhya Pradesh	42.52	41.25	44.87		8.8.2001
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13.	Maharashtra	36.86	65.34	77.00		2.3.2000
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14.	Manipur	40.86	1.66	1.29		Feb. 1999
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15.	Meghalaya	40.86	1.83	1.72		15.1.2001
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16.	Mizoram	40.86	0.68	0.91		8.8.2001
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17.	Nagaland	40.86	1.24	1.24		15.6.2001
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18.	Orissa	48.56	32.98	48.57		12.12.2001
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19.	Punjab	11.77	4.68	4.35		March 2002
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20.	Rajasthan	27.41	24.31	23.74		3.8.2001
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21.	Sikkim	41.43	0.43	0.44		10.1.2002
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22.	Tamil Nadu	35.03	48.63	65.51		31.8.2000
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23.	Tripura	40.86	2.95	2.50		August 2001
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24.	Uttar Pradesh	40.85	106.79	91.23		30.6.2001
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25.	West Bengal	35.66	51.79	47.87		31.7.97
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26.	A&N Islands	34.47	0.28	0.17		23.5.97
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27.	Chandigarh	11.35	0.23	0.23		12.2.2001
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28.	D&N Haveli	50.84	0.18	0.16		Sept.2000
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29.	Daman & Diu	15.80	0.04	0.04		25.6.97
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30.	Delhi	14.69	4.09	4.11		25.1.2001
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31.	Lakshadweep	25.04	0.03	0.01 (1285)		24.10.2001
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32. Pondicherry	37.40	0.84	0.95	31.10.2001
33. Chattisgarh	42.52	18.75	17.48	8.8.2001
34. Jharkhand	54.96	23.94	22.21	8.8.2001
35. Uttaranchal	40.85	4.98	4.30	13.12.2001

Total	652.04	789.59		
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