

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:294
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
IDENTIFICATION OF BELOW POVERTY LINE FAMILIES
Kurup Adv. Suresh

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

- (a) whether there is a huge gap in the actual number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families identified by various State Governments and those assessed by the Union Government for being included under Public Distribution System(PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to rectify this anomaly?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a),(b) & (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 294 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.09.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): The Planning Commission estimates poverty across all the States in the country by following a uniform methodology. The Government allocates foodgrains to States and UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households worked out on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 projected on the population estimate of Registrar General of India as on March, 2000 or the number of ration cards issued to households by State Governments and UT Administrations, whichever is less. The number of BPL households worked out on the above basis for allocation of foodgrains under the TPDS is 6.52 crores.

Under the provisions of Public Distribution System (Control), 2001, the State Governments and UT Administrations identify the BPL households in their respective States and UTs and issue ration cards to them. As against the accepted number of 6.52 crores BPL households (including Antyodaya Anna Yojana) for allocations under the TPDS, State Governments and UT Administrations have actually issued 10.17 crores BPL cards. The details are given in Annex.

(c): Based on results of 61st round of National Sample Survey on Consumer Expenditure (2004-05), the Planning Commission has released (in March 2007) poverty estimates for 2004-05. According to these estimates, the population living below poverty line is 27.5% as against 36% in 1993-94. If these poverty estimates of 2004-05 are projected on population estimates of March, 2006, the number of BPL households works out to about 5.77 crores, which is lower than the presently accepted number of 6.52 crores. At present, allocation of wheat and rice are based on the existing criteria.