

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:279
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
SPECIAL RATION CARDS FOR BPL FAMILIES
Pradhan Shri Dharmendra;Rawat Shri Kamla Prasad

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to issue special 'Pink Ration Cards' to the poorest among the BPL families;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has directed the State Governments to identify families for issue of such 'Pink Cards';
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the number of cards issued so far, State-wise;
- (d) whether some State Governments have failed to initiate any action for identification of the said families;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to extend this facility to all the BPL families; and
- (g) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure timely issue of 'Pink Cards'?

Answer

Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 279 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2004 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a), (b) & (c): In order to provide foodgrains to the poorest of the poor in the country, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched by the Government w.e.f. 25.12.2000 for one crore households living Below Poverty Line (BPL). The Yojana provides for 35 kgs of foodgrains to the identified beneficiaries at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2/-per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice. The Yojana has been expanded first in June, 2003 by 50 lakh BPL families and second in August, 2004 by another 50 lakh BPL families particularly those households who are at the risk of hunger.

Under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), identification of BPL and AAY families is done by the States/UTs. Necessary guidelines for identification of the AAY families and issue of ration cards have already been issued by the Government. The States/UTs issue distinctive ration cards to the beneficiaries covered under AAY and BPL. The distinctive mark or colour of ration cards to be provided to the AAY beneficiaries is decided by each State/UT. The number of families identified and ration cards issued under AAY by different States/UTs as on 16.12.2004 is at Annexures .

(d) & (e): The identification of the AAY and BPL families has been done by all the States/UTs and is indicated in the Annexure.

(f) & (g): No, Sir. Does not arise.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION No. 279 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2004 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(figures in lakh)

Sl. No. STATE/UT AAY families identified & Ration Cards issued

1. Andhra Pradesh 12.336
2. Arunachal Pradesh 0.228

3. Assam 4.115
4. Bihar 10.000
5. Chhattisgarh 4.619
6. Delhi 0.445
7. Goa 0.110
8. Gujarat 4.654
9. Haryana 1.815
10. Himachal Pradesh 1.182
11. Jammu & Kashmir 1.693
12. Jharkhand 7.268
13. Karnataka 7.197
14. Kerala 3.574
15. Madhya Pradesh 9.488
16. Maharashtra 15.028
17. Manipur 0.255
18. Meghalaya 0.421
19. Mizoram 0.206
20. Nagaland 0.285
21. Orissa 5.055
22. Punjab 0.717
23. Rajasthan 5.733
24. Sikkim 0.099
25. Tamil Nadu 11.185
26. Tripura 0.679
27. Uttar Pradesh 32.423
28. Uttaranchal 0.763
29. West Bengal 10.989
30. A&N Islands 0.043
31. Chandigarh 0.035
32. D&N Haveli 0.028
33. Daman & Diu 0.006
34. Lakshdweep 0.004
35. Pondicherry 0.193

TOTAL 152.871