

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1467
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
SPECIAL CARDS FOR BPL FAMILIES
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan;Mohale Shri Punnulal

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has directed the States to issue special green cards to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criterion fixed for issuance of these special cards;
- (c) whether BPL families owning a few consumer goods and small plots of land have also been excluded from this scheme;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to include all the BPL families under the scheme;
- (e) whether most of the States have completed the work of issuance of special cards; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c) & (d): The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. The Central Government has taken the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of foodgrains to States and UTs.

The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the State/UTs identification of eligible families living below poverty line, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of the functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001, has been notified by the Government of India on 31st August,2001. Under Clauses 3 and 4 of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001, and paragraphs 1 and 2 of the attached Annexure are provisions dealing with identification of BPL families and issuance of ration cards to such identified families by State/UT Governments.

Government of India in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, has not issued any additional specific guidelines for identification of BPL families (except for identifying Antyodaya families). These guidelines are to be formulated by the concerned State/UT Governments as provided under PDS (Control) Order, 2001. However, the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 stipulates `State Governments shall issue distinctive ration cards to APL, BPL and Antyodaya families`. State and UT Governments therefore, issue ration cards of different colours such as Yellow, Pink and White for various categories of TPDS beneficiaries for convenience in their identification.

(e) & (f): Identification of BPL families and issuance of BPL Cards to them are done by State and UT government as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation for rural and urban areas, respectively.