

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:124
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
REDUCTION IN FOOD SUBSIDY
Mohale Shri Punnulal

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

- (a) whether the norms for providing food subsidy to the States have been specified;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Union Government has reduced the food subsidy for some of the States during the last three years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 124 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27.10.2008 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a),(b),(c)&(d): Subsidized foodgrains (wheat and rice) are allocated to the States under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Below Poverty Line (BPL),Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.Food Subsidy for any State depends upon the number of families eligible,as accepted by Government,allocation of foodgrains,quantity of foodgrains lifted and distributed to the beneficiaries under TPDS within that State.

At present,under TPDS,foodgrains are allocated at 35 Kg. per family per month for BPL and AAY families.This norm is uniform for all the States.However,allocation for APL families is made to State Governments depending upon the availability of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

Wheat and rice allocation for the APL category has been rationalized w.e.f. June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively keeping in view the declining stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool.The allocation has been linked to the offtake figures of the past 3 years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.Further,in view of the lower availability of rice in Central Pool during 2006-07 and 2007-08 as compared to demand from various States, the allocation of rice for APL category for 2008-09 has been made on the basis of their average offtake during 2006-07 and 2007-08.The decision has been made uniformly applicable for all the States excepting J&K, A&N Islands,Lakshadweep,HP and NE States excluding Assam, for which allocation has been retained at last year's (2007-08) level.

Besides the normal monthly allocation for APL category, during the current year (upto December, 2008), adhoc additional allocations of 9,52,500 tonnes of wheat and 1,18,000 tonnes of rice have been made to various States/UTs.Further,a quantity of 1,92,000 tonnes of wheat and 36,000 tonnes of rice has also been allocated to various States as festival allocation.