

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1586  
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004  
DENIAL OF RATION TO FARMERS  
Karunakaran Shri P.

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

- (a) whether many poor farmers and agricultural labourers have been excluded from Public Distribution System(PDS) with the introduction of targeted PDS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons denied ration card during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise and category-wise;
- (c) the measures taken to provide long term food security to the poor farmers;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce the Universal Public Distribution System to make food accessible to deprived classes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ( DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH )

(a): No, Sir. The instructions of Government of India do not bar issue of ration cards under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to bona fide Indian citizens.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): To ensure security for all and to reform and improve the Public Distribution System for the benefit of the poorest of the poor from amongst the BPL families, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana was commenced in December, 2000 to provide 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and 3/- per kg. for rice. The scale of issue has been enhanced to 35 kg. per family per month with effect from April, 2002. The Yojana which initially covered one crore poorest of the poor families has been expanded to cover 1.5 crore BPL poor families in June, 2003. It is being further expanded to cover another 50 lakh BPL families particularly the ones which are at the risk of hunger. Food grains are also provided under various welfare schemes for the vulnerable sections of the society.

(d) & (e): At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to introduce the Universal Public Distribution System. The Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced in June, 1997 with a view to target the under privileged sections of the society i.e. families Below the Poverty Line who are being provided foodgrains at highly subsidized rates. The introduction of a `Universal PDS` will result in the PDS losing its focus on meeting the needs of the Poor.