

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:88  
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010  
FOODGRAINS FOR BPL FAMILIES IN BIHAR  
Ram Shri Purnmasi

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

- (a) whether nearly 122 lakh families are living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the State of Bihar;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government is providing foodgrains for only about 65 lakh BPL families under Antyodaya Anna Yojana to the State of Bihar;
- (c) if so, details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to provide foodgrains for the remaining 57 lakh BPL families?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): According to the Government of Bihar, there are 121 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the State. Union Government is allocating foodgrains to 65.23 lakh Below Poverty Line including Antyodaya Anna Yojana families in Bihar at the rate of 35 kg per family per month.

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor, is operated under joint responsibility of Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of fair price shops, rests with the concerned State & UT Governments.

Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State levels. For allocations of foodgrains to States/UTs under TPDS, Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 01st March, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them, whichever is less. As per the above estimates, there are 65.23 lakh BPL/AAY families in the State of Bihar.

The above mentioned norms are uniformly applicable for all States/UTs. Hence the demand for allocation of foodgrains to additional BPL families in Bihar could not be acceded to.