

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1984

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010

DIFFERENCE IN BPL FIGURES

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

- (a) whether the number of the Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries identified by the States so far exceeds the number of beneficiaries recognised by the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of beneficiaries identified by the States and the Union Government separately, alongwith the number of BPL cards actually issued;
- (d) whether the States have urged the Union Government to include all the families identified by them in the BPL category;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the follow up action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor is operated under joint responsibility of Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision over & monitoring of functioning of fair price shops, rest 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, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

However, as reported by end of January, 2010, State and UT Governments have issued 1111.77 lakh BPL ration cards including 2.43 crore AAY cards. State/UT-wise details of these families are enclosed in Annex-I.

The higher number of BPL ration cards issued by them is due to improper targeting of the poor households, and have inclusion as well as exclusion errors. Some of the State Governments have requested for accepting the higher numbers of BPL families for allocation of foodgrains under TPDS. The State & UT Governments have again been directed to take up a campaign during October to December 2009 to detect and eliminate bogus/ineligible BPL ration cards.