

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3147

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010

COVERAGE UNDER NFSA

Biju Shri P. K.;Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Karunakaran Shri P.;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara;Satpathy Shri Tathagata;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

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

(a) whether the Above Poverty Line families presently covered under the Public Distribution System are excluded from the ambit of the proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the number of families likely to be affected alongwith the corrective steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend the benefits of the said scheme to all the people in the areas affected by natural calamities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) & (b): Above Poverty Line (APL) families are covered in the existing Public Distribution System and allocations of foodgrains are made to State Governments in respect of APL families based on the availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. There is no proposal at present to discontinue such allocations.

The President, in her address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009 had announced that the Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act entitling each BPL family, by law, to 25 kg. of rice and/or wheat per month @ Rs.3 per kg. A draft Bill is under preparation in consultation with the Ministry of Law. The draft Bill would be put on the website of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

(c) & (d): Government of India makes additional allocations of foodgrains to the State/ Union Territory Governments over and above the allocations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in cases of natural calamities, based on requests of the State/ Union Territory Governments.

In addition, relief/assistance is also admissible under Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund to the affected people on account of natural calamities.