

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4101
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the distribution of foodgrains to poor people within the States is done on the basis of the estimates of the Planning Commission;
- (b) if so, the present estimate in this regard and the quantity of foodgrains distributed on the basis of the said estimates, State-wise; and
- (c) the figures on which the said estimates of the Planning Commission are based?

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(c): The allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families are made on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission, estimated at 36% of the population, projected on March 2000 population estimates of the Registrar General of India. Accordingly, allocations of foodgrains are made to 6.52 crore BPL families. The responsibility for lifting of the foodgrains allocated to the States/Union Territories (UTs), identification of BPL families as per Planning Commission estimates, issue of ration cards to them and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through fair price shops rests with the State/UT governments.

As per 2004-05 poverty estimates of Planning Commission, 27.5 % of population have been estimated to be below the poverty line. Accordingly, 5.90 crore families are estimated to be below the poverty line as per these estimates when projected on March 2009 population estimates of Registrar General of India.

However, allocations of foodgrains are continued to be made to 6.52 crore BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission. The details of State-wise monthly allocations of foodgrains for BPL families are at Annex.

The Planning Commission estimates of incidence of poverty at national and State level are based on the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group (Lakadwala Committee) on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor.