

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6159
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010
EXPANSION OF AAY
Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the State Governments have requested the Union Government to increase the number of beneficiaries under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) which provides rice and wheat to the poorest among poor at a concessional rate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereto; and
- (c) the number of beneficiaries under the said scheme presently, State-wise?

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): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor, aims at distributing subsidized foodgrains to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in all rural as well as urban areas in the country.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), covers the poorest families among BPL category in all rural areas and urban areas. AAY was launched in December, 2000 and there have been three expansions since then. State/UT Governments have issued 2.43 crore AAY ration cards. The identification of eligible BPL and AAY families and issuance of ration cards to them is the responsibility of concerned State/UT Government.

Government has received requests from some State Governments for increase in the number of AAY families. The State Governments are required to identify AAY families within the ceiling of number of AAY families communicated to each State/UT Government. Since the State Governments had identified the number of AAY families within the ceiling limit given to them, their requests for increase in number of AAY families could not be accepted.

(c): A statement on details of estimated and actually covered families under AAY is at Annex-I.