

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5172
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010
COVERAGE OF ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA
Natarajan Shri P.R.

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to include all the disabled persons under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 (c): 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) was launched in December, 2000 for one crore poorest of the poor families among Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. Subsequently, this scheme has been expanded thrice to cover additional 50 lakh families each time.

Identification of eligible BPL and AAY families and issuance of ration cards to these families is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments. State/UT Governments have identified and issued ration cards to 2.43 crore AAY families.

As per guidelines issued for identification of AAY families, the disabled persons/households headed by disabled persons with no assured means of subsistence or societal support are eligible for identification as AAY families provided they are in BPL category and fulfill the criteria for identification of AAY families.