

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5238

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010

FREE FOODGRAINS FOR POOR PEOPLE

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing any schemes for providing free/subsidised foodgrains to poor people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, schemewise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce any alternate scheme to replace the Public Distribution System (PDS) for distributing foodgrains in view of rampant corruption in PDS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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): Government of India makes allocations of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to States/Union Territories (UTs) @ 35 kg per family per month at highly subsidized prices for distribution to 6.52 crore accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families which includes 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana families, as per 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 01.03.2000. Allocations of foodgrains to Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made at subsidized prices based on availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. These allocations range between 10 kg and 35 kg in different States/UTs.

The Government is also providing foodgrains for other welfare schemes such as Mid Day Meal Scheme, Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG), Annapurna Scheme, etc.

(c) & (d): There is no proposal before the Government to introduce any alternate scheme to replace the TPDS.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. To improve functioning of TPDS, State/UT Governments have been requested to:

- (i) review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- (ii) ensure greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;
- (iii) improve monitoring and vigilance at various levels; and
- (iv) introduce new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels and smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities.