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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:360
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010
DISCRIMINATION IN ALLOCATION OF FOOD SUBSIDY
Panda Shri Baijayant

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received complaints from some States regarding discrimination on the key issue Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether these States have requested for increase in their foodgrain quota under TPDS/PDS to provide subsidised ration to BPL families; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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): The union government allocates subsidized food grains to the identified number of BPL (including AAY) families @ 35kg per family per month. Food grains are also allocated to APL families at subsidized rates ranging from 10-35 kg per family per month depending upon stocks in the Central Pool.

Food subsidy is released on the basis of actual offtake under TPDS to states procuring under Decentralised Procurement and to FCI and no discrimination is made in allocation of food subsidy.

(c) & (d): Allocations of food grains under TPDS are made on the basis of poverty estimates of 1993-94 of Planning Commission projected on March, 2000 census figure to 6.52 crore identified BPL families (including AAY families) @ 35 kg per family per month. The identification of BPL families and issuance of BPL ration cards is the responsibility of the State/UT governments. Number of states have issued BPL ration cards more than the identified number of BPL families and the actual number of BPL ration cards (including AAY) as on 30-06-2010 is 11.04 crore. These state governments are requesting for additional allocation of food grains.