

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:331

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010

BPL FAMILIES

Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla;Sinha Shri Yashwant

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

- (a) whether the number of families having Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards has increased;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of BPL families identified by the Union and the State Governments and the criteria adopted for this identification, State-wise;
- (c) whether requests have been received from the States for increasing the number of BPL families;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken to ensure that the ensuing identification of BPL families is reliable and transparent ?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a),(b),(c),(d) &(e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.331 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 17.08.2010 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) to (e): Allocation of foodgrains to States & Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are made by Government of India on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India. Accordingly, allocation of foodgrains are made to 6.52 crores BPL families including 2.43 crores Antyodaya Anna Yojana families. However, the State/UT Governments have reported issue of 11.04 crore ration cards for BPL families, including 2.43 crore AAY families. The State-wise details are at Annex-I.

Requests have been received from some States/UTs for increasing the accepted number of BPL families under TPDS, as at Annex-II. However, as Government of India has been adopting uniform criteria across all States/UTs, the request from these States/UTs for increasing the accepted number of BPL families could not be agreed to.

Steps have been taken to ensure that there is proper identification of BPL families. Ministry of Rural Development had appointed an Expert Group for suggesting suitable framework and methodologies for identification of the rural poor. The Expert Group submitted its Report which has been considered by an inter-ministerial core group. As advised by the core group, Ministry of Rural Development is in the process of identification of rural poor. Planning Commission has set up an Expert Group to recommend a detailed methodology for identification of families living below poverty line in the urban areas.