

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3826
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010
FAIR PRICE SHOPS IN TRIBAL AREAS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether no fair price shops are available in over 2261 villages in Eastern Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has ascertained the facts in this regard;
- (c) if so, whether the Union Government has issued/proposes to issue any directives/ guidelines to the State Government to open fair price shops in rural and tribal areas of eastern Vidarbha region;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Government thereto; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken by the Union Government to supply ration in these areas?

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 (e): As reported by Government of Maharashtra, there are no fair price shops in 1111 villages of Eastern Vidarbha Region. The card holders of these villages are attached to the nearby fair price shops for getting foodgrains. The allotment of additional new fair price shops is also in process.

According to the guidelines issued to all State/Union Territory (UT) Governments, they were advised to open fair price shops, wherever necessary, to provide easy physical access to ration cardholders. For this purpose, they may assess the coverage of fair price shops, including those in tribal areas, with a view to cover the remaining areas.

Government allocates foodgrains (rice and wheat) to States and UTs for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) / Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg. per family per month. Allocation of foodgrains are also made for Above Poverty Line (APL) families depending upon their availability in the Central Pool and past off-take. Presently, allocation of foodgrains to the APL families ranges between 15 kg and 35 kg per family per month.

To improve functioning of TPDS, government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families; ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops; ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS; improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels; and introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels.