

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1436  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010  
ALLOCATION FOR TRIBALS  
Bwiswmuthiary Shri Sansuma Khunggur

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

- (a) whether most of the tribal families in the country including the North Eastern Region and Bodoland territory have been deprived of the benefits under the Public Distribution System/Targeted Public Distribution System due to lack of ration cards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide all the essential food items at subsidised rates to all the tribals in the country including Bodoland territory; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**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 (d): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central Government and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of food grains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibility for allocation of food grains within the State/UT, identification of eligible families and issuance of ration cards to Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) & Above Poverty line (APL) families including tribal families in the country as well as North Eastern Region and the Bodoland territory, supervision of distribution of allocated food grains to eligible families through fair price shops rests with the respective State/UT Governments.

For allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) to States and UTs under TPDS, Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Register General of India as on 1st March, 2000 or the number of such ration cards actually issued by State/UT Governments, whichever is less. The number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the country is 6.52 crore, which includes 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. These include eligible tribal families in the country including the North Eastern Region and Bodoland.