

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:18
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
FOODGRAINS FOR BPL
Lal Shri Kirodi ;Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether there is variance in the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families estimated/identified by the Union and the State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether suggestions/requests have been received for change in the criteria based on the data of 2010 so as to ensure correct identification of BPL families and allocation of foodgrains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) the criterion being followed presently for the purpose; and
- (f) the steps taken for proper implementation of food security schemes?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 18 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 09.11.2010 IN THE LOK SABHA.

Parts (a) to (f): For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food & Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. However, the State/UT Governments have reported (upto 30.9.2010) issue of 11.04 crore ration cards for BPL families, including 2.43 crore AAY families. The higher number of BPL ration cards issued by them is due to improper targeting of the poor households and have inclusion as well as exclusion errors.

Requests have been received from some State/UT Governments for increasing the accepted number of BPL families under TPDS, as at Annexure. However, as Government of India has been adopting uniform criteria across all States/UTs, the requests from these States/UTs for increasing the accepted number of BPL families could not be agreed to. However, in September, 2010, Government has allocated to State/UT Governments an additional quantity of 25 lakh tones of wheat/rice on adhoc basis at BPL prices for the next six months.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. 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.