

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:168
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
FOOD POLICY
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new food policy to protect the interest of the poor people from rising prices; and
(b) 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 (b): With a view to specifically target poor sections of society for distribution of subsidized foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarse grains) and sugar, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in 1997. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of Central Government and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for lifting and distributing the allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible card holders through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are that of the State/UT Governments.

Allocations of foodgrains are made to States/UTs under TPDS for distribution to 6.52 crore accepted number of BPL/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg. per family per month. Allocations of foodgrains are also made to Above Poverty Line (APL) families based on the availability of foodgrains in the central pool and past offtake. Presently, the allocation of foodgrains to APL families ranges between 15 kg. and 35 kg. per family per month. Besides, State/UT Governments have been asked to take proactive steps to contain rise in prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities and keep the cost of intermediation under check for reducing the gap between the wholesale and retail prices by using agencies such as the State Civil Supplies Corporation for procurement of non-PDS food articles in bulk for distribution to the retail consumers.

In this regard, the proposed National Food Security law also envisages entitling every BPL family to a certain quantity of foodgrains per month at subsidized prices.