

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:209
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
FOOD SECURITY SCHEME
Pakirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether suggestions/requests have been received from various quarters including the political parties for providing rice at Rs. 2 per Kg to all the citizens irrespective of Above Poverty Line and Below Poverty Line categorisation to ensure the proposed food security for all;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the reasons for the difference in Below Poverty line list of Union and the States?

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): No suggestion/requests have been received for providing rice at Rs. 2 per Kg. to all the citizens.
- (b): Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c): For allocation of foodgrains to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and 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 States/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 poor households and have inclusion as well as exclusion errors.