

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3326
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010
COST OF SUPPLYING FOODGRAINS
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Mahant Dr. Charan Das

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any suggestion/recommendation to bear the entire cost of supplying foodgrains under Antyodaya Anna Yojana and other welfare schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to supply 35 kg. of wheat, rice and millets to the poor at Rs. 2, Rs. 3 and Re. 1 respectively; 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): The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 12.8.2010 has, inter-alia, observed that Government of India may consider distribution of foodgrains to the deserving population at a very low cost or no cost.

Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), foodgrains (rice and wheat) are allocated at highly subsidized prices to 6.52 crore accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, @ 35 kg. per family per month @ Rs.2/- per kg for wheat and Rs.3/- per kg. for rice for AAY families and Rs.4.15 per kg. for wheat and Rs.5.65 per kg. for rice for BPL families. Depending upon the availability of foodgrains in the central pool and past offtake, foodgrains are also allocated at subsidized prices to Above Poverty Line (APL) families @ Rs.6.10 per kg. for wheat and Rs.8.30 per kg. for rice. Presently, the allocations of foodgrains to APL families range between 15 kg. and 35 kg. per family per month.

In addition to allocation of foodgrains under TPDS, the Government makes allocations of foodgrains under other Welfare Schemes such as Midday Meal Scheme and Wheat based Nutrition Programme also. Further, this Department has been making additional allocation of foodgrains to the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations in case of emergencies like floods, droughts, etc. Additional allocation of foodgrains has also been made from time to time depending upon the availability of stocks and requirement/requests received from States/UTs. Further, in September, 2010, Government has allocated to State/UT Governments an additional quantity of 25 lakh tonnes of wheat/rice on adhoc basis at BPL prices for the next six months.

National Advisory Council (NAC) has finalized its recommendations on the proposed National Food Security Bill in its meeting on 23rd October, 2010. It has, inter-alia, recommended two categories of households, namely "priority" and "general" households. NAC has further recommended that priority households should have a monthly entitlement of 35 kgs. (equivalent to 7 kgs. per person) at a subsidized rate of `1 per kg for millets, `2 for wheat and `3 for rice.

The recommendations of the NAC and other stakeholders will be examined by the Government while finalizing the National Food Security Bill.