

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3335
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010
NON-ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

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

(a) whether Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and other beneficiaries have been deprived of their foodgrain entitlement due to non-allocation and non-lifting of quota of rations under the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country including Jharkhand during the last three months and the current month;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the distribution of PDS items among the BPL families and the other beneficiaries through the Public Distribution System has been hampered for want of necessary approval by the Union Government with regard to amended BPL list forwarded by the State Governments including Jharkhand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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) & (b) : Allocation of foodgrains are made to States/UTs well in advance at the beginning of the year for Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). In the case of Lakshadweep such allocations are made for October to September period in advance. States are allowed to lift foodgrains one month in advance of the allocation month. Requests for extension of validity period are also considered as and when received.

The overall offtake of foodgrains under TPDS for all the States/UTs for the last four months from June to September 2010, for which data is available, is 94.6% and in the case of Jharkhand it is 88%.

(c) & (d): Allocations of foodgrains are presently made @ 35 kg. per family per month for all 6.52 crore BPL families including 2.43 crore AAY families accepted for allocation under TPDS on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission and March 2000 population estimates of the Registrar General of India or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less.

The Government has also made an additional allocation of 25 lakh tons of foodgrains in September 2010 to States/UTs for distribution to BPL families at BPL issue prices for a period of six months. This allocation is expected to cover the additional BPL families based on March 2010 population estimates of Registrar General of India.