

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3341

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010

INCLUSION UNDER BPL

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

- (a) whether persons having purchasing power of Rs. 12 per day in rural and Rs. 18 in urban areas are excluded from the benefits of Below Poverty Line (BPL)/subsidized foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to change the criterion and conduct a fresh survey to include such poor people under BPL and provide subsidised foodgrains to them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

**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): For allocations of foodgrains to States/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 population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 01st March, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. This number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. The allocations of foodgrains to these 6.52 crore BPL/AAY families are made @ 35 kg per family per month.

Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State levels. Planning Commission uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs.49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs.56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level. The state specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The national poverty line at 2004-05 prices is Rs.356.30 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs.538.60 per capita per month in the urban areas.

The guidelines for identification of BPL families in rural areas have been issued by Ministry of Rural Development in 2002. The actual identification of BPL families is the responsibility of the State /UT Governments. Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group to suggest methodology for conducting the next BPL census in rural areas. The Expert Group has submitted its report. The report of the Expert Group has been considered by an inter-ministerial core group. Ministry of Rural Development is in process of conducting a pre-testing study to establish the final methodologies for identification of the rural poor.

For urban areas, an Expert Group headed by Prof. S.R. Hashim has been constituted by the Planning Commission for recommending a common methodology for identification of BPL household in urban areas.

The proposed National Food Security law envisages entitling every BPL family to a certain quantity of foodgrains per month at subsidized prices. Issues relating to coverage, entitlements, etc will be decided while finalizing the proposed legislation.