

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3434
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010
SUBSIDY ON FOOD ITEMS
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of food subsidy on poverty/food security in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome 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) and (b) : The Department of Food & Public Distribution has not got conducted any study recently to assess the impact of food subsidy on poverty. However, under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), there is a special focus on people living below poverty line. Foodgrains at subsidised rates @ 35 kg per family per month are provided to estimated 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including 2.50 crore Antyodaya families.

The difference between economic cost of foodgrains and their issue prices under TPDS and other welfare schemes is provided by the Government as food subsidy. The issue of foodgrains at subsidised rates to poor helps in increasing availability of foodgrains, providing food security to them.