

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4489

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010

IRREGULARITIES IN AAY

Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Pangi Shri Jayaram;Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) whether complaints regarding irregularities in Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) like under weighing, errors of inclusion and exclusion have been reported during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard, Statewise;
- (c) whether the Government has received any request for expansion of AAY; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through Fair Price Shops and supervision of the functioning of Fair Price Shops, etc., rest with the State/UT Governments.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001, mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS.

Complaints as and when received by the Central Government about malpractices in TPDS including inclusion and exclusion errors in identification of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, are sent to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for inquiry and necessary action. The details of complaints on TPDS received from individuals, organizations & through media reports etc during the year 2007 to 2009 and upto September, 2010 are at Annex-I.

Government has issued directions to the State Governments to streamline functioning of TPDS by enforcing provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001. Government has also issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen functioning of TPDS by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

Requests have been received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh for coverage of additional families and allocation of foodgrains under AAY. As the State Governments are required to identify AAY families within the ceiling on number of AAY families given to each State/UT Government, their request for coverage of additional families under AAY beyond the targeted number could not be acceded to.