

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3304

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009

VARIATION IN BPL LIST

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

- (a) whether there is a wide variation between the number of BPL families assessed and recognized by the Union Government and those identified and issued ration cards by the State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) whether a high level meeting was held to resolve the issue;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (e) whether a number of States were unable to lift their allotted quota for want of revised BPL list;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the remedial steps taken in this regard alongwith the time by which this anomaly is likely to be rectified?

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): For identification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) as per poverty estimates of Planning Commission, to issue ration cards to them, guidelines are to be formulated by State/UT Governments as stipulated under the Public Distribution System (Control), Order 2001. For identification of Antyodaya Anna Yojana families out of the BPL families, guidelines have been issued by Central Government.

For allocations of foodgrains to States and UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System, Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000. This number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

However, as reported by end of June, 2009, the State and UT Governments have issued 10.86 crore BPL cards, which include 2.43 crore AAY cards. A statement showing State-wise estimated number of BPL families and BPL and AAY cards issued by the State Governments/UT Administrations is at Annex-I.

(c)&(d): For formulating guidelines for next BPL census in rural areas, Ministry of Rural Development has constituted an Expert Group in August 2008. The new methodology is yet to be finalized by that Ministry.

(e)&(g): Allocations of food grains to State & UTs for AAY and BPL families are made @ 35 kg per family per month for the accepted number of 6.52 crore such families. Allocations for APL category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool. The responsibility for distribution of allocated foodgrains to the eligible ration card holders through the Fair Price Shops rests with the respective State/UT Government. Foodgrains allocated for BPL and AAY categories are lifted by State & UT governments.