

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4427
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
OBJECTIVES OF PDS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of the Public Distribution System (PDS) Scheme;
- (b) whether the PDS has failed to achieve the said objectives; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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)&(c): Objectives of PDS are -

- (i) to ensure availability and distribution of essential commodities (foodgrains, sugar and kerosene) at subsidized prices to poor people for their food security, and
- (ii) to supplement availability of foodgrains also to non-poor sections of population by distribution at subsidized prices, depending upon the available stocks in the central pool.

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) with focus on the poor and in operation from 1997, has been achieving its objectives. Foodgrains @ 35 kg per family per month and sugar @ 500gms per person are allocated to States/ UTs for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) & Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families for distribution to them at highly subsidized prices. This ensures food security to them. Foodgrains are also allocated for APL families @ 10-35 kg/ family/ month.

As reported by the end of June 2009, the State and Union Territory Governments have issued 10.86 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards which include 2.43 AAY cards and 13.36 crore Above Poverty Line (APL) ration cards for coverage under TPDS.