

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4437

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009

ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS UNDER PDS

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

- (a) whether the Government has allocated foodgrains for export from the Central pool during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the comparative figures of foodgrains allocated for export and those for distribution to the Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families under the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the said period;
- (c) whether the foodgrains were issued for export at prices comparable to PDS prices;
- (d) if so, the details of the price at which the foodgrains were issued for various welfare schemes and for exports separately;
- (e) whether requests have been received for change in criteria for allocation of foodgrains to the States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the response 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(f): The Government had allocated 6.00 lakh tons of wheat for export to Afghanistan in 2008-09 from the Central Pool at economic cost, payable to Food Corporation of India by Ministry of External Affairs. However, no export has taken place from this to Afghanistan.

The details of allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) made to APL and BPL (including AAY) families under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during last three years (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09) are as under:

(In lakh tons)

YEAR AAY & BPL APL TOTAL

2006-07 273.74 302.83 576.57

2007-08 274.62 118.16 392.78

2008-09 276.01 111.75 387.76

The Central Issue Price of foodgrains under TPDS are as follows:

Category CIP (Rs. per quintal)

Rice Wheat

BPL 565 415

AAY 300 200

APL 830 610

Food grains under other Welfare schemes are issued at BPL price except in the case of Village Grain Bank Scheme under which food grains are issued free of cost to the State/UT Governments.

Allocation of foodgrains under TPDS are made as per norms indicated below:

(i) BPL/AAY allocation norms: Allocation of foodgrains under the TPDS is made for BPL including AAY families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000

or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Government, whichever is less. Accordingly, allocations of foodgrains for AAY and BPL categories are made @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted 6.52 crore families to all States/UTs.

(ii) APL allocation norms: Allocations under APL category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool and past offtake. Allocations of rice under APL category during 2008-09 was made to States/UTs on the basis of average of offtake level during 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, allocations of wheat under this category were initially maintained at the level of 2007-08. In view of higher availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, subsequently, considering requests from State/UT Governments and availability of stocks in the Central Pool, adhoc/additional/festival allocations of rice and wheat at APL price were made during 2008-09. Presently, these allocations of foodgrains range between 10 kg and 35 kg per family per month in different States/UTs.

Many State Governments have issued BPL and APL ration cards in excess of estimated numbers of such families and have requested for higher allocation of foodgrains under these categories. Total number of BPL and APL ration cards issued by State Governments are 10.86 crore and 13.36 crore, respectively, by 30.6.2009. There have also been representations that food grains should be allocated on the basis of revised population figures.

Based on 2004-05 poverty estimates and March, 2009 population estimates, number of BPL families works out to 5.91 crores in the country. However, presently, allocations of foodgrains under TPDS by Central Government are being continued for 6.52 crore BPL & AAY families. For the APL category, the annual allocations during 2009-10 have been increased to about 172 lakh tons as compared to about 112 lakh tons last year.