

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:263
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011
BPL FAMILIES
Chanabasappa Shri Udasi Shivkumar

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

- (a) the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families eligible for subsidised foodgrains under the Public Distribution System, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Governments for increasing the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) card holders in various States including Karnataka;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the steps taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): Planning Commission is the nodal agency of the Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State levels. For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food & Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993 -94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.44 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. A statement showing state-wise number of BPL families including AAY families is at Annexure- I.

Requests have been received from some State/UT Governments, including State Government of Karnataka, for increasing the accepted number of BPL families under TPDS. However, as Government of India has been adopting uniform criteria across all States/UTs, the requests from these States/UTs for increasing the accepted number of BPL families could not be agreed to. A statement indicating the requests received from State/UT Governments to increase the number of accepted number of BPL families is at Annexure- II.

With a view to specifically target poor sections of society for distribution of subsidized foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarse grains) and sugar, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in 1997. Under TPDS, foodgrains @ 35 kg. per family per month are allocated to States/Union Territories for 6.52 crore accepted number of BPL/AAY families for distribution at subsidized prices through Fair Price Shops. Depending upon their availability in central pool and past offtake, foodgrains are also allocated to Above Poverty Line (APL) families. Presently, the allocations for APL category range between 15 and 35 kg foodgrains per family per month.

In addition to allocation of foodgrains under TPDS, the Government makes allocations of foodgrains under other Welfare Schemes such as Midday Meal Scheme and Wheat based Nutrition Programme also. Further, this Department has been making additional allocation of foodgrains to the State Governments /Union Territories Administrations in case of emergencies like floods, droughts, etc. Additional allocation of foodgrains has also been made from time to time depending upon the availability of stocks and requirement/requests received from States/UTs.