

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1394
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
LOWER FOODGRAINS CONSUMPTION BY BPL
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the quantity of foodgrains consumed by the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families is low in comparison to its availability in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the per capita consumption of foodgrains by BPL and Above Poverty Line persons in the country, separately; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to bridge this gap?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Domestic production and projected consumption requirement of foodgrains (as per the Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) during 2004-05 was as below:

Year Foodgrains (Million Tons)

Domestic Production Projected Consumption Requirement Difference

2004-05 198.36 188.38 9.98

The details of the monthly per capita consumption of foodgrains (constituting cereals and pulses) by the people living below poverty line (BPL) in 2004-05, derived from NSS 61st Round consumer expenditure data, Report No. 508(61/1.0/1) are as follows:

Monthly per capita Consumption Rural Urban

BPL APL BPL APL

Quantity (kg) 11.61 13.26 10.52 10.80

The comparatively lower consumption level in case of BPL families may be due to their lower affordability in purchasing food grains from sources other than TPDS.

The Central Government makes allocation of foodgrains for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) families under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), @ 35 kg. per family per month, for 6.52 crore such families. In the case of APL families the allocations are based on availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. Presently, these allocations range between 15 and 35 kg per family per month. In addition to normal allocations, the Government has, during the last 2 years and the current year made additional adhoc allocations of foodgrains for BPL and APL families. During the current year, 100 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated for APL and BPL families.

Government also allocates food grains to States & UTs under other welfare schemes targeting the BPL families. The Central Government, from time to time, issues directions to the State/UT Governments to ensure proper distribution of the allocated food grains by streamlining working of TPDS.