

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1563

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011

ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS

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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 and other commodities to the States in accordance with the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating allocation, release and offtake of the said commodities alongwith their price during each of the last two years and the current year, category and State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has reduced the allocation during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the States have requested the Union Government to make additional/ increased allocation;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (g) whether some States have failed to lift their allocated quota; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (h): The commodity-wise details are as under:

FOODGRAINS: Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), allocation of foodgrains is made on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by the States/Union Territories (UTs), whichever is less. Accordingly, allocation of foodgrains is made to States/UTs@ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted number of 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the country. The details of the allocation and offtake of foodgrains (rice and wheat) under TPDS during last two years and current year are at Annex-I, II and III. No reduction has been made in the allocation of foodgrains for BPL families. On the other hand, considering the availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and requests received from the States for higher allocations for BPL category, the Government has made the following additional allocations:

- i. 36.08 lakh tons of foodgrains in January 2010 at MSP based/derived price of Rs.10.80/kg for wheat and Rs.14.93/kg for common and Rs.15.37/kg for Grade A rice for distribution to all families covered under TPDS including BPL families.
- ii. 30.66 lakh tons of foodgrains in May 2010 for all families covered under TPDS including BPL families @ Rs.8.45 per kg for wheat and Rs.11.85 per kg for rice for both varieties.
- iii. 50.00 lakh tons of foodgrains for BPL families at BPL prices of Rs.4.15/kg for wheat and Rs.5.65/kg for rice to all States/UTs in September 2010 and January 2011.
- iv. 50.00 lakh tons of foodgrains for BPL families at BPL prices mentioned above to all States/UTs in May 2011.
- v. 2.57 lakh M.Ts of foodgrains allocated for three months to 45 districts in 8 States at BPL/AAY prices in pursuance of orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the recommendations received from the Central Vigilance Committee on Public Distribution System. Issue price for AAY families is Rs.3/kg for rice and Rs.2/kg for wheat.

The Government has been impressing upon States/UTs to improve the lifting against the special allocations made to them through letters at different levels including to the Chief Ministers of the States and Administrators of the UTs. Review meetings have also been held with States/ UTs in which the States/UTs have been urged to lift the allocations in full for distribution to the targeted beneficiaries. Also, additional allocations have been made to States who have lifted their initial allocations and demanded more.

KEROSENE (SKO): Allocation of PDS kerosene is made to the States/UTs for distribution to the beneficiaries through Public Distribution System (PDS) network. The central issue price of kerosene is Rs.16 per litre. Scale and criteria for distribution of PDS kerosene varies from State to State. PDS SKO allocation and offtake figures during 2009-10, 2010-11 and during the current year are as per Annex IV.

During the year 2010-11 & 2011-12, PDS quota of kerosene was reduced on account of increase in LPG coverage during April to December 2009 and January to December 2010 for the respective periods, in respect of all the States/UTs, barring the States in the North East, Island territories and Jammu & Kashmir and States having below national average LPG coverage. Also lapsed PDS quota was reduced during first three quarters of 2010-11 in respect of all States/UTs. During 2011-12, adjustment in the quota have also been made keeping in view the higher per capita allocation.

During 2009-10 all States/UTs except Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Uttarakhand and West Bengal allowed a part of their PDS SKO quota to lapse. During 2010-11 all the States/UTs except for Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand allowed a part of their quota to lapse.

Requests for enhancement/restoration of PDS SKO quota have been received from States/UTs. No proposal to increase allocation of PDS kerosene quota is presently under consideration.

LEVY SUGAR: The allocation of levy sugar is made by the Central Government to the State Governments/UT Administrations as per their fixed monthly levy sugar quota. In February 2001, the Central Government, in a move towards TPDS, restricted the supply of levy sugar to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families except in North Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories where universal coverage was allowed to continue. Allocation of levy sugar to States/UTs during last two years and current year are at Annex-V. The retail issue price of levy sugar under PDS in the country is Rs. 13.50 per Kg since 1.3.2002.

The allocation of levy sugar quota of Bihar and Jharkhand was reduced during September 2006 to March 2010 and August 2005 to September 2009 respectively due to reported non-lifting of allocated levy sugar. However, their normal levy sugar quota has been restored thereafter.

During current 2010-2011 sugar season, the Government of Mizoram requested for allocation of 500 MT of levy sugar for festivals. Uttarakhand requested for sugar quota @ 1 Kg. per unit and 1000 MT levy sugar for Chaar Dhaam Yatra. Himachal Pradesh requested for enhancement of monthly levy sugar quota. Their requests could not be acceded to due to non-availability of levy sugar to meet such additional demands.

The monthly levy sugar quota to all States/UTs is being allocated in full. However, recently the Government of Jharkhand and Bihar have expressed their inability to lift the allotted levy sugar quota due to financial constraints. Bihar requested for allocation of levy sugar only from the sugar mills of Bihar which is not feasible as Bihar is a deficit State in sugar production. Jharkhand has requested to temporarily suspend the allocation of levy sugar for BPL families.