

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2477
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011
ASSISTANCE FOR FOODGRAINS SCHEME
Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) whether some States are implementing special schemes for providing foodgrains to Below Poverty Line families at very low price;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of such States alongwith the quantum and prices of foodgrains and the number of beneficiaries, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide assistance to these States for implementation of the said schemes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): With a view to specifically target poor sections of society, 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 Below Poverty Line (BPL)/ Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families for distribution at subsidized prices through Fair Price Shops. However, as reported upto June 2011, State/UT Governments have issued 10.76 crore ration cards, which includes about 2.44 crore AAY cards. A statement showing State-wise estimated number of BPL families and number of BPL/AAY cards issued by the State/UT Governments is at Annexure – I. Allocations of foodgrains to Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon the availability of foodgrains in the central pool and past offtake. Presently, the allocation of foodgrains to APL families ranges between 15 and 35 Kg per family per month.

Central Government allocates foodgrains (rice and wheat) under TPDS to States/UTs for distribution to BPL, AAY and APL families at Central Issue Prices (CIP) given below:

(Rs. Per Kg.)

APL BPL AAY

Wheat Rice Wheat Rice Wheat Rice
(Gr.A) (Com/ Gr.A) (Com/ Gr.A)

6.10 8.30 4.15 5.65 2.00 3.00

As compared to the economic cost of foodgrains in 2011-12 (BE) namely, Rs.2068.95 per quintal of rice and Rs.1580.58 per quintal of wheat, foodgrains are being allocated by Government to States/UTs at highly subsidized CIPs. However, some State/UT Governments like Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, etc. further subsidise the foodgrains being distributed to TPDS beneficiaries in the respective States/UTs. The State/UT wise details of the end retail price of foodgrains (rice and wheat) being distributed under TPDS are at Annexure – II. The additional financial burden in these cases is borne by the respective State/ UT from their own resources