

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:294
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011
REDUCTION IN FOODGRAIN QUOTA
Dashmuni Deepa ;Mishra Shri Mahabal

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken a decision to reduce the quantity of foodgrains provided to the Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line cardholders under the Public Distribution System in different States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise including Delhi;
- (c) whether the Government has received proposals from the State Governments including Delhi for resumption of the foodgrain quota and also for additional allocation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 294 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 23.8.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA.

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. No reduction has been made in the allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs including Delhi for BPL families.

The allocations of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) category were being made in larger quantities till 2005-06 due to surplus stocks available in the Central Pool and lower offtake. However, since 2006-07, taking into account the availability of stocks in the Central Pool, allocations of foodgrains to States/UTs for APL families were rationalized on the basis of past offtake. Allocations of foodgrains for APL families were being made between 10 kg and 35 kg per family per month in different States/UTs till May 2011.

Requests have been received from States/UTs for restoration/enhancement/ additional allocation of foodgrains. However, no specific request for increasing allocations has been received from Delhi recently. During the current year, considering the availability of surplus stocks in the Central Pool and requests received from several States for enhancement/additional allocations, 50 lakh tons of rice and wheat have been allocated for BPL families in all States/UTs. In addition, 2.57 lakh M.Ts of foodgrains have been allocated for three months to 8 States covering 45 districts on the recommendations of the Central Vigilance Committee on Public Distribution System. Further, Government has enhanced the APL allocation to 20 States/UTs, including Delhi, from June 2011 to ensure a minimum monthly allocation of 15 kg per family per month. In 4 North Eastern States, Sikkim and 2 hill States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, the monthly per family APL allocation has been increased to 35 kg.