

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1307

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2011

SPECIAL CARDS FOR BPL

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Mandal Shri Mangani Lal

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has directed the State Governments to issue special green cards to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria followed for the issuance of such cards;
- (c) the number of beneficiaries identified for the purpose in each State/UT;
- (d) whether several States/UTs have completed the issuance of the said cards; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Public Distribution System (Control) Orders, 2001 provides that State Government shall issue distinctive ration cards to Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya families.

For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of 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. However, as reported upto 31.8.2011, States/UTs have issued 10.77 crore BPL ration cards. The State-wise details are at Annex-I.