

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3149

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011

COVERAGE OF PDS

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

(a) the number of beneficiaries included under the Public Distribution System (PDS) alongwith the budget allocated under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and category-wise;

(b) whether suggestions have been received from various quarters for introducing food security universally; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon and the percentage of population proposed to be covered under the scheme and the estimated cost thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (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. Allocation of foodgrains to these 6.52 crore BPL families, including AAY families, are made @ 35 kg per family per month.

Allocations of foodgrains are also made to 11.52 crore Above Poverty Line (APL) families based on the availability of foodgrains in central pool and the past offtake. Presently, the allocation of foodgrains to APL families ranges between 15 kg and 35 kg per family per month. Additional allocation of foodgrains is also made from time to time depending upon the availability of stocks and requirement/requests received from State/UTs.

Food Subsidy is provided in the budget as a whole and not scheme wise. Food subsidy is released to Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Decentralised Procurement (DCP) States on the basis of offtake of foodgrains subject to availability of funds provided for food subsidy by Ministry of Finance. Any shortfall in subsidy is met with next year's allocation of funds.

Total funds allocated by Ministry of Finance for food subsidy and subsidy released for APL, BPL and AAY families under TPDS during last three years and budget provision for the current year, is as under:-

Year	(Rs. in crore)			Scheme-wise Subsidy
	Funds allocated by M/o Finance			
	APL	BPL	AAY	

2008-09	43695	7294	16157	12615
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2009-10	58242	12595	19564	14224
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2010-11	62930	15875	20385	14083
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2011-12 (BE)	60085			
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Scheme-wise breakup of subsidy released for the year is worked out after the end of the financial year. Further, State-wise subsidy

figures are not maintained in this Department.

Comments/suggestions on various provisions of the draft National Food Security Bill have been received from individuals and organisations, including suggestion for universal coverage.

Based on the current levels of production and procurement, the draft Bill provides for coverage of upto 75% of the total rural population, with at least 46% population belonging to priority households and upto 50% of the total urban population, with at least 28% population belonging to priority households under the TPDS. The additional food subsidy involved is estimated at Rs.27,663 crore per annum.