

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:5  
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012  
FOODGRAIN PRICES UNDER PDS  
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

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

- (a) the percentage of Below Poverty Line (BPL) population in various States in the country particularly in the backward and rural regions alongwith the percentage of the said population in the country as a whole;
- (b) whether the prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities in the fair price shops for the people living Above Poverty Line (APL) are almost at par with the prices in the open market;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has undertaken or proposes to undertake measures to bring down the prices of foodgrains, sugar, kerosene for the BPL and APL families under the PDS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b), (c) & (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 NO. 5 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 13.03.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA

Parts (a) to (d) : 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 243.250 lakh Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

A statement showing State-wise percentage of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households covered under TPDS is at Annexure-I. As per the statement, the percentage of BPL households in the country is about 36%, out of which AAY comprises 13.49%.

Central Issue Prices of rice and wheat for distribution to Above Poverty Line (APL) category are Rs.8.30 per kg and Rs.6.10 per kg respectively. As per reports received from States/UTs from time to time, the issue prices for rice for APL category at Fair Price Shops range from Rs.6.00 per kg to Rs.13.00 per kg and for wheat it ranges from Rs.4.00 per kg to Rs.10.00 per kg in different States. A Statement indicating State-wise issue prices at Fair Price Shop level is at Annexure - II. As per information received from Department of Consumer Affairs which maintains daily retail prices of foodgrains, etc, prices of rice in open market varies from Rs.19.00 per kg to Rs.24.00 per kg and for wheat it varies from Rs.16.00 per kg to Rs.22.00 per kg. A Statement of daily retail prices is at Annexure - III. While there is at present no proposal for downward revision of Central Issue Prices of foodgrains (rice and wheat) being distributed under TPDS, the National Food Security Bill 2011 recently introduced in Parliament envisages issue of foodgrains to " Priority" households at the issue prices of Rs.3.00, Rs.2.00 and Re.1.00 for rice, wheat and coarsegrains respectively.

As regards sugar, the retail issue price of levy sugar under PDS to the beneficiaries is Rs.13.50 per kg since 1.3.2002. However, the ex-mill price of sugar in the open market depends on various factors, namely, domestic demand and supply, international prices of sugar, market sentiments, etc. A Statement showing range of ex-mill price during the last sugar season i.e. 2010-11 is as at Annexure-IV and a Statement showing range of ex-mill price during the current sugar season i.e. 2011-12 (October 2011 to 6th March, 2012) is as at Annexure-V.

As regards kerosene, which is managed by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, the Government continues to modulate the retail selling prices of PDS Kerosene to protect the consumer from the inflationary impact of international oil prices and the current prices are below the required market price, resulting in incidence of under-recovery to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).