

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:192
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
ALLOCATION UNDER PDS
Pakkirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has allocated an additional 5 million tonnes of foodgrains to the Public Distribution System (PDS), as directed by the Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of families benefitted and the criteria/method adopted for identification of the beneficiary districts and families under the said scheme;
- (c) whether the issue price of the said foodgrains is different from the price under normal allocation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the issue price of foodgrains under normal allocation and the said additional allocation alongwith the price at which they were distributed, State-wise?

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 NO. 192 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27.03.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA

Hon'ble Supreme Court in its orders dated 14.5.2011 and 14.9.2011 directed the Union of India, inter alia, to provide food grains for 150 poorest districts of India or the extremely poor and vulnerable sections of our society on priority basis and to reserve 5 million tons of food grains for distribution for the purpose. The Court also requested the High Powered Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) D.P. Wadhwa to identify the poorest districts or poorer segments of the society and ensure that additionally allocated food grains reach this segment from time to time. The Committee recommended allocation of a total of 23.68 lakh tons of rice and wheat to cover 47.15 lakh BPL and AAY families in the poorest districts for a period of one year. The Committee also recommended an allocation of 1473 tons of food grains for one year to six districts in four States for running community kitchen to provide cooked food in places like Collectorate, City Hospitals, Bus Stops and in pockets inhabited by poor and vulnerable people in collaboration with Corporations/Public Sector Undertakings under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme.

Based on the above recommendations of D.P.Wadhwa Committee, Government of India has allocated since July 2011, a total quantity of 23.69 lakh tons of rice and wheat of which 7.61 lakh tons was allocated at Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) prices and 16.08 lakh tons at Below Poverty Line (BPL) prices for distribution in 174 poorest/backward districts identified by the Committee in 27 States including allocation of 1473 tons of food grains to six districts in four States for running community kitchen to provide cooked food under the CSR Programme.

In recommending additional allocation of food grains for distribution to poorest districts, the Wadhwa Committee identified, inter alia, the following categories of persons/families for allocation of additional food grains and directed the concerned States accordingly:

1. For BPL and AAY families based on increased populations from 2001 to 2011.
2. Families which do not have BPL/AAY cards but are economically weak and deserve BPL/AAY ration cards as per existing criteria.
3. Families which have BPL/AAY cards but do not have buying capacity to even purchase subsidized food grains.
4. Persons having annual income less than Rs.60,000/- with exclusion criteria made by the Committee.
5. Persons who hold cards under the AAY scheme but are unable to purchase food grains even at subsidized rate; or those persons who do not fall under AAY scheme / Annapurna Yojna Scheme or any similar scheme implemented by the State Government but are living in a state of penury and are unable to obtain food grains by their own means.

Under normal TPDS allocations, Government of India supplies food grains for the BPL and AAY families to States/UTs at the Central Issue Price (CIP) as indicated below:

(Rs per kg)

Commodity	AAY	BPL
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Wheat	2.00	4.15
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Rice	3.00	5.65
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In the case of BPL families, margin cost for Fair Price Shop owners may be charged in the end retail price. However, in the case of AAY, the end retail price to beneficiaries will be same as the above CIPs.

The State-wise details of additional allocation of 23.69 lakh tons of food grains made to the States at BPL/AAY CIPs and offtake is at Annex-1. The offtake against the allocation of 23.69 lakh tons made for the poorest districts is 4.47 lakh tons upto January 2012.