

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3134

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012

PDS PRICE

Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to increase the price for Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) categories under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has also reduced or is considering to reduce the allocation for the States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Union Government has received any request from the States including Kerala and Bihar to reduce prices and restore/increase their quota; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No Madam. At present Government is not considering any proposal to increase the issue prices for Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) categories under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

(c) & (d): No Madam. Under the TPDS, allocation of foodgrains is made @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted number of 6.52 crore BPL families, including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the country. Allocation of foodgrains for APL families are made depending upon availability of foodgrain stocks in the Central Pool and past offtake by the States/UTs. Presently, the allocations of foodgrains to APL category range between 15 kg and 35 kg per family per month in different States/UTs.

The normal annual allocation under TPDS for AAY, BPL & APL families has remained unchanged during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 Further, Government has made adhoc additional allocation of 36.08 lakh tons, 136.72 lakh tons and 123.69 lakh tons during the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively. The additional allocation of 136.72 lakh tons made in 2010-11 includes 25 lakh tons of foodgrains for APL families issued at a special price of @ Rs.8.45 per kg for wheat and Rs.11.85 per kg for rice.

(e) & (f): Requests were received from States, including State Governments of Kerala and Bihar for lowering the issue prices of additional APL allocations. As these additional allocations for APL categories were made at highly subsidized prices uniformly applicable to all the States/UTs, the requests were not acceded to.

Considering the requests received from the States, including State Governments of Kerala and Bihar regarding additional allocation of foodgrains at APL issue prices and availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, Government has made an additional allocation of 50 lakh tons for APL families at APL prices for the period June 2011 to March 2012. For the year 2012-13 also Government has released an additional quantity of 61.73 lakh tons for APL families at APL prices.