

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3184

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012

ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS

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

- (a) whether the Union Government had allocated foodgrains and other items under the Public Distribution System (PDS) as per the entitlement/demand of the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor indicating the entitlement/demand and actual allocation during each of the last three years, Statewise;
- (c) the steps taken to provide adequate quantity of the said items as per the demand of the States;
- (d) whether the allocation/entitlement for PDS is based on 2001 census;
- (e) if so, whether the States have requested the Union Government to enhance their quota in view of the increase in below poverty line population in the States;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide incentives to the Fair Price Shop owners and make PDS more transparent?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): The commodity-wise details are as under:

FOODGRAINS: Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), allocation of foodgrains to States/Union Territories (UTs) is made @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted number of 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the country on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India. Allocations of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of foodgrain stocks in the Central Pool and past offtake by the States/UTs. Presently, these allocations range between 15 and 35 kg per family per month.

Requests have been received from States/Union Territories (UTs) for higher allocation of foodgrains on the basis of increase in population. Considering the availability of surplus stocks in the Central Pool and the requests of the States/UTs, adhoc additional allocations of foodgrains have been made to the States from time to time. This includes 123.69 lakh tons of foodgrains allocated for the additional BPL, AAY and APL families during 2011-12.

The State-wise details of the normal and additional/adhoc allocations of foodgrains (rice & wheat) made during the last three years for the AAY/BPL and APL families are at Annexure-I, II & III.

KEROSENE (SKO): The number of the customers of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in the country is continuously on the rise and more people are shifting to cleaner fuels i.e. Domestic LPG/PNG for their cooking needs resulting in lesser requirement of PDS Kerosene. During 2011-12 and the current year, requests for enhancement/restoration of PDS Kerosene quota have been received from several States/UTs, namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and West Bengal on various grounds viz. insufficiency of quota, increase in ration card holders, climatic conditions etc., which may include increase in BPL families as one of the reason for increase in quota. These requests could not be acceded to by this Ministry. PDS SKO allocation figures during last three years are as per Annex-IV.

PDS quota of kerosene was reduced on account of increase in LPG coverage during April to December 2009 and January to December 2010 for the respective periods, in respect of all the States/UTs, barring the States in the North East, Island territories and Jammu & Kashmir and States having below national average LPG coverage. Also lapsed PDS quota was reduced during first three quarters of 2010-11 in respect of all States/UTs. During 2011-12, adjustment in the quota have also been made keeping in view the higher per capita allocation.

Requests for enhancement/restoration of PDS SKO quota have been received from States/UTs. There is no proposal to increase allocation of PDS kerosene quota.

LEVY SUGAR: In February, 2001, the Central Government, in a move toward better targeting Public Distribution system (PDS), has restricted the supply of levy sugar under the PDS to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families except in the North Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories where universal coverage was allowed to continue on the basis of 2001 census. The Central Government is allocating levy sugar to all States/UTs as per their fixed monthly quota on monthly basis. The Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Mizoram had requested for enhancement of their monthly levy sugar quota. A statement showing state-wise allocation of levy sugar during last three seasons (2008-09 to 2010-11) is at Annexure-V. However, requests of the State Governments could not be acceded to as it would require an increase in levy obligation on the sugar mills.

(g): In terms of the Public Distribution (Control) Order 2001, the responsibility for issue of licences and monitoring of the Fair Price Shops and provision of Incentives to the FPS through payment of commission, etc. lie with the State Governments/UT Administrations. Strengthening and streamlining of the TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has resolved that monitoring distribution of PDS items by Fair Price Shops may be done through social Audit by local bodies/community groups/NGOs, use of GPS technology for tracking of movement of vehicles carrying PDS items, SMS alerts, CCTV monitoring of FPDS, grievance redressal through toll free call centres and web based complaint registration and monitoring systems.