

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6430  
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012  
FOODGRAINS FOR POOREST DISTRICTS  
Ray Shri Rudramadhab

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified the poorest districts in the country for providing additional quantum of foodgrains for distribution to the poor as directed by the Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to include some poor districts including Gajapati of Odisha for the said purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): 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.

Wadhwa Committee, in consultation with Planning Commission and on the requests made by the State Governments, initially identified 174 poorest districts and made recommendations for allocation of foodgrains for the additional Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the identified districts.

Based on the above recommendations of Wadhwa Committee, Government allocated 23.69 lakh tons of foodgrains for these additional BPL and AAY families at BPL and AAY prices respectively during 2011-12 for distribution in the poorest districts of 27 States as identified by the Committee. The state-wise number of districts and details of these allocations are at Annexure.

On the requests received from the States for inclusion of some additional districts as poorest or backward, the Committee also made recommendations for allocation of foodgrains for some additional districts other than the initially identified 174 districts. On the recommendations of the Committee, additional allocation of 15.40 lakh tons of foodgrains have been made in May, 2012 for the poorest districts in 12 States for six months. This includes an allocation of 119901 tons for Odisha including Gajapati district.