

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1595
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
FOOD INSECURITY
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

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

- (a) whether some rural areas in the State of Odisha have been identified as chronically food insecure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received complaints regarding improper allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken on such complaints; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to provide adequate and nutritious food to the inhabitants of the said areas of the State of Odisha?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court to distribute the foodgrains to 150 poorest districts or the extremely poor and vulnerable sections of our society, the Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) D.P. Wadhwa has identified 19 districts as the poorest districts in the State of Odisha and has recommended additional allocation of foodgrains for distribution to additional Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in these districts. Further, on the requests of the State Government of Odisha, Government is also making allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to 17,118 Above Poverty Line (APL) families of Kandhamal district at AAY prices. In addition, 7.42 lakh APL families of districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawrangpur, Rayagada, Bolangir, Sonepur, Kalahandi and Nuapada referred as KBK districts of the State are also being allocated foodgrains under TPDS at BPL prices.

(c) & (d): There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of TPDS including diversion/leakages of foodgrains, prevalence of bogus/ineligible ration cards etc. in some regions/States of the country. As and when complaints are received by the Government of India from individuals and organisation as well as press reports, these are referred to the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. During the last three years i.e. 2009, 2010 and 2011, 1, 3 and 2 complaints were received respectively in respect of Odisha. During the current year 2012 (upto July, 2012), only one complaint in respect of Odisha has been received.

(e): Government is making allocation of foodgrains under TPDS @ 35 kg per family per month for all accepted 32.98 lakh BPL (including 12.64 lakh AAY) families in Odisha and 7.42 lakh APL families of KBK districts of the State at BPL prices and 17,118 APL families of Kandhamal district at AAY prices. In addition, adhoc additional allocation of 2,52,906 tons of foodgrains were allocated during the current year 2012-13 for distribution to the additional BPL families at BPL prices. Further, on the recommendations of the Wadhwa Committee, an adhoc additional allocation of 1,19,901 tons of foodgrains have been made to Odisha during 2012-13 for distribution to the additional BPL families in the identified poorest districts of the State. Government is also making allocation @ 7.5 kg per person per month under Emergency Feeding Programme targeted towards old, infirm and destitute persons belonging to BPL households at BPL issue prices to provide food security to 2 lakh beneficiaries in the KBK districts.