

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:822  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012  
NORMS FOR BPL  
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar

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

- (a) the criteria presently adopted by the Government for defining the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) categories;
- (b) whether the Government is not providing subsidised ration and sugar to the APL families; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) : Planning Commission is the nodal agency of the Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State levels. Planning Commission defines poverty line on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. For estimating the poverty, Planning Commission uses the defined poverty line based on the methodology suggested by experts in the field.

For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food & Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less.

(b) & (c) : Depending upon their availability in central pool and past offtake, foodgrains are being allocated to Above Poverty Line (APL) families at the Central Issue Price of Rs.6.10 per kg for wheat and Rs.8.30 per kg for rice. Presently, the allocations for APL category range between 15 kg and 35 kg foodgrains per family per month in different States/UTs. In view of special geographical conditions and difficult terrain, allocation @ 35 kg/family/month is being made to 13 special category States/UTs including the North Eastern States, Sikkim, hilly States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand and Island UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Details of State-wise allocation and offtake of foodgrains in respect of APL category are given at Annexure - I.

As regards distribution of sugar to APL families under TPDS, Government has restructured the supply of levy sugar in February, 2001 and restricted its supply to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families except in North Eastern States, Hilly States and Island Territories where universal coverage was allowed to continue. Details of monthly levy sugar quota for above-referred States/UTs is at Annexure - II.