

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:920  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012  
FOODGRAIN ENTITLEMENT  
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to use the latest census data in determining the beneficiaries for providing foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details worked out in this regard so far; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) : 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. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

Requests have been received from some State/UT Governments for increasing the accepted number of BPL families under TPDS. As Government of India has been adopting uniform criteria across all States/UTs, the requests from these States/UTs for increasing the accepted number of BPL families could not be agreed to. However, in addition to normal allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat), Government is also making additional allocation of foodgrains from time to time depending upon the availability of stocks and requests received from States/UTs.

Further, the National Food Security Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011 provides for annual revision in allocation of foodgrains under TPDS, based on actual or estimated population, in the prescribed manner.