

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2631
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
COVERAGE OF PDS
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh

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

- (a) the number of families being benefited under the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Maharashtra;
- (b) whether there is adequate stock of foodgrains in the State for distribution under PDS;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken for providing sufficient foodgrains through PDS?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and 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 total number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Further, as per these estimates, the accepted number of BPL families in Maharashtra is 65.34 lakh, including 25.05 lakh AAY families. Allocation of foodgrains to these accepted number of BPL/AAY families are made @ 35 kg per family per month. Allocation of foodgrains is also being made to 111.93 lakh Above Poverty Line (APL) families in the State @ 15 kg. per family per month.

Government of Maharashtra has inter-alia reported that while there is sufficient quantity of foodgrains available for BPL and AAY families, it is about 84% of the requirement of APL families. To augment availability of foodgrains at cheaper rates in the State, Government has been making adhoc additional allocations for BPL and APL families from time to time over and above normal TPDS allocation.