

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:63
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
CAP ON BPL BENEFICIARIES
Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has urged the States to put a cap on the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the quantum of foodgrains presently allocated to the States are based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government has also requested the States to identify afresh the BPL population; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.63 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 24.11.2009 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor is operated under joint responsibility of Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on poverty estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision over & monitoring of functioning of fair price shops, rest with the concerned State & UT Governments.

Presently foodgrains are allocated to State & UTs under TPDS for 6.52 crore BPL [including 2.43 Crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)] families, based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000. For taking up next round of BPL census in rural and urban areas, Ministries of Rural Development and Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation are yet to issue guidelines.