

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:746
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012
COST SHARING UNDER AAY
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben

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

- (a) whether the cost towards distribution and all administrative expenses for distribution of foodgrains under Antyodaya Anna Yojana in Gujarat have to be borne by the State Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government is providing subsidised foodgrains only for 21 lakh BPL families as against the 32 lakh families identified in Gujarat and the State Government has to bear all the expenses for providing foodgrains to these remaining families;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to reimburse all the amount spent by the State on this account during 2004-05 to 2011-12; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched in December, 2000 for one crore poorest of the poor among Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and with subsequent expansions targeted to cover a total of 2.50 crore families. Foodgrains (rice and wheat) are allocated by the Government to all States & UTs for distribution to AAY families @ 35 kg per family per month at a highly subsidized price of Rs.2 per kg for wheat and Rs.3 per kg for rice.

The end retail price at the Fair Price Shops for the poorest of the poor category is required to be retained at Rs.2 per kg for wheat and Rs.3 per kg for rice. Hence, the additional costs incurred within the State/UT towards distribution, administrative expenses, etc. are to be borne by the respective States/UT Governments and not passed on to the AAY beneficiaries.

(c) & (d): For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and UTs under TPDS, Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of 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 including AAY families is 6.52 crore. Further, as per these estimates, the accepted number of BPL including AAY families in State of Gujarat is 21.20 lakh. Allocation of foodgrains to these accepted number of BPL/AAY families are made @ 35 kg per family per month. However, as reported upto 30.09.2012, State Government of Gujarat has issued 31.80 lakh BPL/AAY ration cards.

Requests have been received from some State/UT Governments including the State of Gujarat for increasing the accepted number of BPL families under TPDS. However, 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.

(e) & (f): There is no proposal to reimburse the amounts spent by States/UTs on this account during 2004-05 to 2011-12.