

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:145

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

CAP ON BPL

Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has directed the States to put a cap on the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries covered under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto;
- (c) whether the quantum of foodgrains being allocated to States at present is based on the poverty estimates of the year 1993-94 of the Planning Commission;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government has directed the States to conduct a fresh survey to ascertain the number of people living below the poverty line; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (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. 145 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 4.12.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA

Parts (a) to (c): For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and UTs under TPDS, Department of Food & Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Allocation of foodgrains to these 6.52 crore accepted number of BPL families, including AAY families, are made @ 35 kg per family per month. Allocations of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are also made depending upon the availability of stocks in Central pool and past offtake. At present, these allocations range between 15 kg and 35 kg per family per month. However, State/UT Governments have reported upto 30.09.2012 issuance of 11.13 crore ration cards to BPL/AAY families. The additional requirement of foodgrains arising due to higher number of ration cards issued by some States/UTs is being met by them by reducing the scale of issue of foodgrains for BPL families, or further subsidizing the foodgrains meant for APL category for distribution to BPL families, etc.

Some State Governments have made requests for increasing the accepted number of families under TPDS, however, as Government of India has been adopting uniform criteria across all States/UTs, these requests for increasing the accepted number of BPL families could not be agreed to.

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. A Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC 2011) has been launched on 29th June, 2011 in the country which is being carried out by the respective State/UT Governments with the financial and technical support of the Government of India. SECC 2011 consist of Census for identification of below poverty households in rural and urban areas and Caste Census throughout the country. Government of India will take into account multiple dimensions of deprivation based on the indicators that are being collected through the SECC 2011 for arriving at specific entitlements under various central governments programmes and schemes. Though the progress is uneven across the States/UTs under SECC 2011, 90.28% of enumeration has been completed in States/UTs as upto 29.11.2012.