

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:148
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012
FOODGRAINS TO BPL FAMILIES
Pandey Saroj;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

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

- (a) whether the quantity of foodgrains being supplied to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in all the States/regions is as per their entitlements;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor indicating the entitlement, allocation and actual distribution of foodgrains during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaints/reports about the irregularities in the distribution of foodgrains to BPL families as per their entitlements;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

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. 148 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) to (e) : Government makes allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to States/Union Territories (UTs) for all accepted number of 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg per family per month as per their entitlement on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India. In addition to the above normal TPDS allocation, Government of India is also making additional allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs for BPL and AAY families from time to time. Details of state-wise allocation of foodgrains for BPL and AAY families during the last three years and the current year are at Annexure I & II.

Under the TPDS, the operational responsibilities for lifting and distributing the allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs to the eligible families and supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to them through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are of the State/UT.

There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of TPDS in certain regions/States in the country. A statement on state-wise number of complaints on TPDS received from 2009 to 2012 upto 30th September, 2012 is at Annexure III. Since, under the TPDS, responsibility for lifting and distributing the allocated foodgrains within the States/Union Territories to the eligible ration card holders through the Fair Price Shops(FPSs) is of the State Governments/UT Administrations, as and when complaints are received these are sent to the concerned State Governments/UTs for enquiry and appropriate action. Government of India regularly reviews and issues instructions to the States/ UTs to strengthen functioning of TPDS by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increasing transparency in functioning of TPDS, adopting revised Model Citizen's Charter and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations. Government of India has requested all States/UTs to take up end-to-end computerization of TPDS in a time-bound manner to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the TPDS.