

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4002

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2012

INCREASE IN BPL CARDS

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

- (a) the total number of ration cards issued, State-wise and category-wise;
- (b) whether the relevant rules stipulates regular review of Below Poverty Line lists and the ration cards;
- (c) if so, the details and the implementation status thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received requests for increasing the number of beneficiaries under various schemes of the Ministry; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a): As reported by State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations upto 30.09.2012, 24.28 crore ration cards have been issued for various categories of beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The State-wise and category-wise details of ration cards issued as reported upto 30.09.2012 is at Annex - I.

(b) and (c): In order to maintain supplies and secure availability and distribution of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955), the Central Government has notified Public Distribution System(Control) Order, 2001 on 31.8.2001.

The Order inter-alia provides that the State Governments shall formulate suitable guidelines for the purpose of identification of families living Below the Poverty Line (BPL), including the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, as per the estimates adopted by the Central Government and shall get the lists of BPL and Antyodaya families reviewed every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. The PDS (Control) Order also provides that State Government shall conduct periodic checking of ration cards to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards.

In consultation with the State/UT Governments, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which inter-alia includes continuous review of BPL/AAY lists and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards. As reported upto 30.09.2012, 33 States/UTs have reported review of BPL/AAY lists and 27 States have reported deletion of 318.50 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards since July, 2006.

(d) and (e): Planning Commission is the nodal agency of the Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State levels. So far as Department of Food & Public Distribution is concerned, this Department for allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), uses the number of Below Poverty Line (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 2.43 crore AAY families. Some State/UT Governments have requested for increase in number of BPL families for TPDS allocations. The details are given in Annex-II. The allocation of foodgrains are made to the 6.52 crore accepted number of BPL families @ 35 kg per family per month. These norms are uniformly applicable to all States/UTs. Hence, the requests from the State/UT Governments for increase in number of BPL families and allocation of foodgrains could not be accepted.