

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1170
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013
PRICES OF FOODGRAINS FOR BPL
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) the percentage of Below Poverty Line (BPL) population in various States in the country, particularly in the backward and rural regions along with the percentage of the said population in the country as a whole;
- (b) whether the prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families under the Public Distribution System (PDS) are almost at par with the prices in the open market;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has undertaken or proposes to undertake measures to bring down the prices of foodgrains, sugar, kerosene etc. for the BPL and APL families under the PDS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) For allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of Registrar General of India (RGI) 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 families is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

A statement showing State-wise percentage of BPL and AAY households covered under TPDS is at Annex-I. As per the statement, the percentage of BPL households in the country is about 36% out of which AAY comprises 13.49%.

Central Issue Prices of rice and wheat for distribution to Above Poverty Line (APL) category are Rs.8.30 per kg and Rs.6.10 per kg respectively. A statement indicating State-wise issue prices for foodgrains (rice and wheat) for APL category at Fair Price Shops (FPSs) is at Annex-II. The information regarding retail prices of foodgrains (rice and wheat) for four metro cities during the months of January, 2013 and February, 2013 is at Annex-III. While there is at present no proposal for downward revision of Central Issue Prices of foodgrains (rice and wheat) being distributed under TPDS, the National Food Security Bill, 2011 introduced in Parliament envisages issue of foodgrains to "Priority" households at the issue prices of Rs.3.00, Rs.2.00 and Rs.1.00 for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively.

As regards sugar, the retail issue price of sugar supplied through PDS is already highly subsidized and has remained unchanged at Rs.13.50 per kg since 1st March, 2002, as against the current open market prices of Rs.35-40 per kg.

As regards Kerosene, which is managed by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Subsidized Kerosene Oil (SKO) is already being sold below the market price. At present, it is being sold at Rs.14.96/ Litre (at Delhi) and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are incurring an under-recovery of Rs.33.43/Litre (as per Refinery Gate Price (RGP) effective 01.03.2013) on sale of PDS SKO.