

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3524  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013  
ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA  
Sudhakaran Shri K.

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

(a) the present status of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana along with the latest initiatives taken by the Government for the improvement of the ongoing projects under the programme; and

(b) the extent to which it has been effective in removing poverty in rural areas of the country?

**Answer**

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

(a): In order to make the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) more focused and targeted at the poorest of the poor, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched in December, 2000 for one crore families to be identified from the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. Coverage under this scheme has been expanded thrice since then i.e. during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 covering additional 50 lakh households each time. Thus the total coverage under AAY was raised to 2.50 crore AAY families. The identification of AAY families within the target of AAY families allocated to each State/UT is the responsibility of concerned State/UT Government. Against the accepted number of 2.50 crore AAY families given to State/UT Governments, upto February, 2013 they have reported issuance of AAY ration cards to about 2.43 crore AAY families. Allocation of foodgrains (rice & wheat) to these AAY families are made @ 35 kg per family per month at a highly subsidized Central Issue Price (CIP) of Rs.2 per kg for wheat and Rs.3 per kg for rice.

(b): This Department has been getting the functioning of TPDS, including the implementation of AAY, evaluated by different agencies from time to time. However, no such evaluation regarding the effectiveness of AAY in removing poverty in rural areas has been got conducted by the Department.