

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1832
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009
PDS FOR TRIBALS
Balram Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Public Distribution System (PDS) in agency areas exclusively for the economically weak tribals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and;
- (c) the details of requests received for allocation of foodgrains from such areas pending with the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)to(b): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor, aims at distributing subsidized foodgrains to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in all rural as well as urban areas in the country.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), as a sub set of TPDS covers the poorest families among BPL category in all rural areas and urban areas. AAY was launched in December, 2000 and there have been three expansions since then. State/UT Governments have issued 2.43 crore AAY ration cards. The identification of eligible BPL and AAY families and issuance of ration cards to them is the responsibility of concerned State/UT Government.

Since tribal families in agency areas as well as other areas are already being covered under TPDS, there is no proposal to introduce PDS exclusively for poor tribal families.

(c): No such request is pending.