

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2913
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009
UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF SUGAR
Meena Shri Raghuvir Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make any changes in the distribution system for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the quantum of sugar being distributed to BPL card holders and under the `Antyodaya Anna Yojana` is not equal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

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) & (b): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor is operated under joint responsibility of Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs and their distribution to TPDS beneficiaries, rest with the concerned State & UT Governments.

Under TPDS, foodgrains, @ 35 kg per family per month are allocated to the States/Union Territories for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) (including 2.43 crore AAY) families. Depending upon their availability in central pool, foodgrains are also allocated for Above Poverty Line (APL) families. Presently, the allocations for APL category range between 10 and 35 kg foodgrains per family, per month.

However, as announced in the address of Hon'ble President of India to joint session of Parliament on 04.06.2009, Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act, details of which are yet to be finalized.

(c),(d)&(e): Government restructured supply of levy sugar under the TPDS in February 2001 and restricted its supply to BPL families except in the North Eastern States, Hilly States and Island Territories, where the coverage allowed is of BPL as well as APL families.

Since the BPL families include the AAY families to whom the levy sugar is distributed under TPDS, its quantum is the same.