

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3017

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009

ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS

Lal Shri Kirodi ;Nirupam Shri Sanjay Brijkishorilal ;Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

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

- (a) the number of the Below Poverty Line families in the country alongwith the number of ration cards issued, State-wise;
- (b) the details of foodgrains based welfare schemes being implemented by the Union Government for poor people in the country;
- (c) the quantity and price of foodgrains and other commodities provided to such families under the said schemes;
- (d) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding irregularities in the supply of foodgrains to such families during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken in this regard;
- (f) whether some States failed to lift their quota during the last three years and the current year; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise?

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): The State-wise details of the accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and the number of actual ration cards issued by the State/UT Governments as reported by 30.11.2009 are as per Annex-I.

(b) to (g) : FOODGRAINS: The allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made for Below Poverty Line families including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg. per family per month on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000, or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by State Government, whichever is less.

Also, allocations of foodgrains are made under various other welfare schemes such as Annapurna, Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM), Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP), Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG), etc.

State-wise details of the allocations and offtake of foodgrains for BPL and AAY families under TPDS and Other Welfare Schemes during the last three years and the current year are as per Annex-II & III.

The Central Issue Price of foodgrains for BPL and AAY category under TPDS are as follows:

Category CIP (Rs. per quintal)

Rice Wheat

BPL 565 415

AAY 300 200

Allocations to all the other welfare schemes, except Village Grain Bank (VGB) scheme, are made at BPL Central Issue Price (CIP). Under VGB, food grains are issued free of cost to the States/ UTs.

However, food grains under Annapurna and Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) are issued by the State/UT Governments free of cost to the beneficiaries on the basis of subsidy received from Ministry of Rural Development in respect of Annapurna scheme and the Planning Commission (under the Backward Regions Grant Fund) in respect of EFP.

Targeted Public Distribution (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for lifting of the allocated foodgrains, their distribution within State/UT, identification of eligible BPL & AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated

foodgrains to eligible ration cardholders through fair price shops rest with the State/UT Governments.

As per provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001, functioning of FPS is regulated by State/UT Governments. Hence, complaints of irregularities received regarding distribution of foodgrains, etc., under TPDS are forwarded to concerned State/UT Governments for verification and taking appropriate action.

TPDS is being operated in all States and UTs. For streamlining its functioning, the Government has directed State and UT Governments for-

- (i) continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- (ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;
- (iii) improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels; and
- (iv) introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart card based delivery of essential commodities.

Reasons that may contribute to gaps between allocation and offtake of foodgrains in various States/UTs could include local production and availability of foodgrains, local food preferences, convenience, income levels of the population, variation in demand on account of difference in TPDS and market price from time to time, and availability of funds with the State/UT Governments, etc.

LEVY SUGAR: Sugar is one of the items supplied under Targeted Public Distribution System. The Central Government, in a move towards better targeting in PDS, has restricted the supply of levy sugar under PDS to BPL families except in the North Eastern States, Hilly States and Island Territories, where universal coverage is allowed to continue. Further, the allotment of levy sugar is made on the basis of fixed State/UT quotas with effect from

1.2.2001. A quantity of about one lakh MT is allotted as fixed annual festival quota of the States/UTs as per the scheduled festival requirement of the State Government/UT. Administrations. A statement showing State-wise levy sugar quota supplied under TPDS during last three years is as per Annex – IV.