

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4701

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013

BPL IDENTIFICATION

Ju Dev Shri Dilip Singh;Semmalai Shri S.

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

- (a) whether different criteria are being adopted by the Union and the State Governments for identification of beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System (PDS)/Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) leading to difference in figures and adverse impact on the beneficiaries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the number of beneficiaries identified by the Union and the States Governments;
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government for adopting integrated approach and criterion for BPL identification both at the Centre and the State level;
- (d) whether some States including Chhattisgarh have requested the Union Government to increase the number of beneficiaries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and
- (f) whether the present system has been successful to meet the growing demands of the poor and needy and if so, the details thereof and if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of Central Government and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments, wherein the operational responsibility for identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and issuance of ration cards to these families are of the State/UT Governments.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 stipulates that State Governments shall formulate suitable guidelines for the purpose of identification of BPL/AAY families as per the estimates adopted by the Central Government. In this regard Government has also prescribed the criteria that may be adopted by States/UTs for the identification of AAY household within the ceilings of AAY households assigned for each State/UT.

For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and UTs under TPDS, Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by States/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes 2.43 crore AAY families. However, States/UT Governments have reported upto 31.03.2013, issuance of 11.12 crore ration cards to BPL/AAY families. The higher number of ration cards issued by some of them is due to improper targeting of the poor households, and have inclusion as well as exclusion errors. As per PDS (Control), order, 2001, State Governments shall get the list of BPL and Antyodaya families reviewed every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion eligible families.

(c) The National Food Security Bill (NFSB), introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011, provides for coverage of 75% and 50% of the rural and urban population respectively under TPDS under two categories – priority and general. The Bill further provides that within the number of person determined to be covered in each State/UT under the above mentioned two categories. Identification of priority households and general households shall be done by the State/UT Government or such other agency as may be decided by the Central Government in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Central Government.

(d) and (e) Some State Governments including State of Chhattisgarh have made requests for increasing the accepted number of BPL/AAY families under TPDS. However, as Government of India has been adopting uniform criteria across all States/UTs, these requests for increasing the accepted number of families could not be agreed to.

(f) As per existing norms for allocation under TPDS, allocations of foodgrains are made to States/UTs @ 35kg per family per month. Requests are received from States/UTs for higher/ additional allocation of foodgrains under TPDS. Considering the availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and the request of States/UTs, the Government has allocated 50 lakh tons of additional foodgrains to

the States/UTs for each of the last three years i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 to enable them to meet their additional requirements. Further, the Government has also allocated additional 23.69 lakh tons and 21.21 lakh tons of foodgrains for the additional BPL and AAY families in the poorest district across the country during 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively.