

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6494

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013

ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA

Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant;Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao;Thomas Shri P. T.

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

- (a) whether the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) is being implemented in all the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the scheme;
- (c) whether some States have requested to increase the number of beneficiaries and the allocation under the scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the approved and actual number of beneficiaries along with the allocation and offtake of foodgrains and other items during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding misappropriation of AAY benefits by the middlemen; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the remedial/corrective steps taken in this regard and the time frame fixed for the purpose?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (b): 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 in all States/UTs 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 March, 2013, they have reported issuance of AAY ration cards to 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.

(c) and (d): Requests have been received from State Governments and others for coverage of additional families under AAY and allocation of foodgrains to them in States such as Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. As the State Governments are required to identify AAY families within the ceiling of number of AAY families allocated to each State, the requests for coverage of additional families under AAY beyond the targeted number could not be acceded to. States/ Union Territories (UTs) are also advised from time to time to review the existing list of AAY beneficiaries and remove the ineligible beneficiaries so as to include only the most eligible.

State/UT-wise details of number of families covered under AAY scheme during the last three years and 2012-13 are given at Annex-I. State/UT wise details of allocation and offtake of foodgrains in respect of AAY families during the last three years and 2012-13 are at Annex-II and III.

(e) and (f): There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the TPDS including irregularities in distribution of foodgrains to BPL/AAY categories in some States/ regions in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. Government has regularly reviewed and has issued instructions to States/UTs to strengthen functioning of TPDS by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the viability of Fair Price Shop operations.