

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1233

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013

DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS

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

- (a) the percentage of persons living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in various States including Rajasthan, State-wise;
- (b) the schemes being implemented for providing foodgrains to the poor along with the quantum of foodgrains provided during each of the last three years and the current year, State and scheme-wise;
- (c) whether the price of foodgrains and other essential commodities available at Fair Price Shops for BPL families is similar to the price of these commodities in open market;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has taken steps/proposes to take steps to decrease the prices of foodgrains, sugar, kerosene etc. for BPL and Above Poverty Line families under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has received any request to revise/reduce PDS prices to provide relief to BPL and those affected by flood and drought and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a): For allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of Registrar General of India (RGI) as on 1st March 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the total number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

A statement showing State/UT-wise percentage of BPL (including AAY) households covered under TPDS is at Annex-I. As per the statement, the total percentage of BPL households in the country is 36% and the percentage of BPL households in the State of Rajasthan is about 27% as per the 1993-94 estimates.

Government has been providing foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through the State Government/UT Administration under the TPDS and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)-SABLA, Annapurna, Emergency Feeding Programme and Village Grain Bank Scheme. A statement showing allocation of foodgrains under these schemes for the last three years and the current year is at Annex-II to IV.

(c) to (e): Central Issue Prices of foodgrains (rice and wheat) for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category are Rs.5.65 per kg and Rs.4.15 per kg respectively. A statement indicating State-wise issue prices for foodgrains (rice and wheat) for BPL category at Fair Price Shops (FPSs) is at Annex-V. The information regarding retail prices of foodgrains (rice and wheat) for four metro cities during the months of August, 2012 and August, 2013 is at Annex-VI. Under the National Food Security Ordinance, 2013, the eligible households are entitled to receive specified quantities of foodgrains at the issue prices of Rs.3.00, Rs.2.00 and Rs.1.00 for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively.

As regards sugar, the retail issue price of levy sugar under PDS in the country is Rs.13.50 per kg. since 1.3.2002, which is substantially less than the prices of sugar in the open market.

In order to insulate the common man from the impact of rise in international oil prices and the domestic inflationary conditions, the Government continues to modulate the Retail Selling Price (RSP) of PDS Kerosene, resulting in incidence of under-recovery to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). Based on the Refinery Gate Price effective 1.8.2013, the OMCs are incurring under-recovery of Rs.33.54/litre on PDS Kerosene. In addition to this, Government has been providing a subsidy of Rs.0.82 per litre on PDS Kerosene from the Budget under the "PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002" to the Public Sector OMCs. Based on the Refinery Gate Price effective 1.8.2013, the Retail Selling Price of PDS Kerosene at Delhi is Rs. 14.96/litre. The RSP of PDS

Kerosene has not been revised since June, 2011 and also there is no such proposal before the Government to revise the RSP of PDS Kerosene at present.

(f): Requests have been received from some States including Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Kerala, etc. to provide foodgrains at BPL rates for drought / flood affected families of these States. However, additional allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs, over and above normal allocations, in case of natural calamities like flood, cyclone, drought, etc. has been made at economic cost or Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) rates, whichever is less at the time of allocation.