

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:770

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013

PRICES OF PDS ITEMS

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao

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

- (a) the percentage of people living below poverty line in various States, State-wise;
- (b) whether the prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities available at Fair Price Shops meant for people living below poverty line are nearly equal to the prices in the open market;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to reduce the prices of foodgrains, sugar, kerosene etc. for the people living below poverty line and above poverty line under the Public Distribution System; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) The State-wise percentage of people living Below Poverty Line in various States is at Annex-I

(b) to (d) 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/UT-wise issue prices for foodgrains (rice and wheat) for BPL category at Fair Price Shops (FPSs) is at Annex-II. The information regarding retail prices of foodgrains (rice and wheat) for the period January, 2013 to November, 2013 is at Annex-III. Under the National Food Security Act, 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 1.12.2013, the OMCs are incurring under-recovery of Rs.36.20/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 fiscal budget under the "PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002" to the OMCs. Based on the Refinery Gate Price effective 1.12.2013, 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.