

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:909

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013

ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS

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

(a) the total number of persons living below the poverty line in the country, Statewise;

(b) whether the foodgrains allocation for the States including Maharashtra is commensurate with their requirement and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor indicating the estimated demand and allocation/supply of foodgrains, sugar and other items during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has reduced the allocation of foodgrains to some States and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the affected States have requested/urged the Government to restore their quota 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) State-wise details of number and percentage of population below poverty line-2011-12 are at Annex-I.

(b) to (d): Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) allocation of foodgrains to States/Union Territories (UTs), including Maharashtra is made @ 35 kg per family per month for all accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families across the country. However, States/UTs have issued excess ration cards based on current population and demanding higher/additional allocation accordingly. Considering availability of stocks in the Central Pool and demands of the State, the Government has been allotting additional foodgrains to States/UTs. State-wise details of allocation and off take of sugar and foodgrains under TPDS, including additional allocation for the last three years and the current year are at Annex-II to V.

Some States/Union Territories (UTs) have expressed apprehension about inadequate coverage of population and reduced allocation of foodgrains under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) as compared to their present allocation under the existing TPDS.

The NFSA provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidised foodgrains under TPDS at the all India level, corresponding to which State-wise coverage has been determined by the Planning Commission. However, as the allocation of foodgrains based on the coverage so determined and entitlements prescribed in the Act is estimated to be less than the allocation under existing TPDS in case of some States/UTs, it has been provided in the Act that the annual allocation of foodgrains of such States/UTs will be protected to the extent of their average annual offtake under normal TPDS during last three years.