

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1178

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015

BENEFICIARIES OF AAY

Naik Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera;Reddy Shri Midhun;Senthilnathan Shri PR.;Suman Shri Balka;Sundaram Shri P.R.

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

- (a) the number of beneficiaries covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), State/ UT-wise;
- (b) the guidelines adopted for identification of Antyodaya Anna Yojana families in the country;
- (c) whether the States have requested the Union Government to increase the number of beneficiaries under AAY;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto; and
- (e) whether the Government has assessed/evaluated the scheme, if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

- (a): A statement showing State/UT – wise accepted number of AAY families and ration cards issued as on 31.1.2015 is at Annex.
- (b): As per the guidelines issued by the Government, the AAY families are to be identified by States/Union Territories(UTs) as per the following criteria:
 - i) Landless agriculture labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans/craftsmen such as potters, tanners, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters, slum dwellers, and persons earning their livelihood on daily basis in the informal sector like porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers, hand cart pullers, fruit and flower sellers, snake charmers, rag pickers, cobblers, destitute and other similar categories in both rural and urban areas
 - ii) Households headed by widows or terminally ill persons/disabled persons/persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support
 - iii) Widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more or single women or single men with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence
 - iv) All primitive tribal households
 - v) All eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families of HIV positive persons.
- (c) & (d): Requests have been received from a few State Governments to increase the number of beneficiaries under AAY but it could not be acceded to as the number is fixed for every State. State/UTs are 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.
- (e): No Madam. AAY scheme has not been separately evaluated. This Department however has been getting the functioning of TPDS, including the implementation of AAY, evaluated by different agencies from time to time. These evaluation studies have revealed certain shortcomings/deficiencies in the functioning of TPDS, such as inclusion/exclusion errors, leakages/diversion of foodgrains, etc. The reports received have been sent to the concerned States/UTs for taking necessary remedial measures to remove the deficiencies noticed in the functioning of TPDS.