

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4537
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015
FOODGRAINS AT LOW PRICES
Kishore Shri Kaushal

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

- (a) the policy framed to provide food free of cost or at a very cheap rate to poor or very poor families in the country; and
- (b) the criteria fixed by the Government to determine the said poor/very poor families?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b): With a view to specially target poor sections of society, the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in June, 1997. For allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under the existing 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 accepted number of BPL families for which foodgrains allocation are being made, is 6.52 crore, which includes 2.42 crore Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Allocation of foodgrains to BPL families, including AAY families, are made @ 35 kg per family per month at the Central Issue Price (CIP) of Rs.3/- per kg for rice and Rs.2/- per kg for wheat for AAY families and Rs.5.65 per kg for rice and Rs.4.15 per kg for wheat for BPL families. Allocation of foodgrains to about 11.52 crore Above Poverty Line (APL) families are also made depending upon the availability of foodgrains in the Central pool and the past offtake. Presently, the allocation of foodgrains to APL families ranges between 15 and 35 kg per family per month. CIPs of foodgrains for APL category are Rs. 7.95 per kg. for rice (common)/ Rs. 8.30 per kg. for rice (grade A) and Rs. 6.10 per kg. for wheat.

Further, Government of India enacted the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, on 10.9.2013, which aims to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act inter-alia provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population at the all India level under two categories the existing AAY and priority households for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively under TPDS. Under the Act, the priority households are entitled to receive foodgrains @ 5 kg per person per month and the AAY households are entitled to receive foodgrains @ 35 kg per family per month. The identification of priority households within the total coverage determined for each State by the Planning Commission and the population estimates as per census, 2011 is to be undertaken by the respective States/UTs.