

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3585

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Meena Shri Arjunlal;Mullappally Shri Ramachandran

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

(a) whether the States have requested the Government to increase the number of beneficiaries and the allocation under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the approved and actual number of beneficiaries at present and the increase sought by the States along with the allocation and off take of food grains during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding misappropriation of AAY benefits by the middlemen and exclusion/inclusion in errors reported therein;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the corrective steps taken in this regard and the time frame fixed for the purpose, State-wise; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to phase out AAY and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b): Requests have been received from a few State Governments to increase the number of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries, but it could not be acceded to, as the number is fixed for every State. States/Union Territories (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. A statement showing State/UT-wise accepted number of AAY families and number of ration cards issued as on 30.06.2015 is at Annex-I. The details of increase in the number of AAY families sought by the States from time to time are at Annex-II. The details of allocations, offtake of foodgrains (rice & wheat) made during the last three years and the current year are at Annex-III & IV.

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(c) & (d): There have been complaints about irregularities including misappropriation of AAY benefits, inclusion/exclusion errors etc. in the functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in some States/regions in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rest with the State/UT Governments concerned. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned, if required, for inquiry and appropriate action. A State/UT wise statement indicating number of such complaints received during the last three years and current year is at Annex-V.

The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 notified on 31.08.2001 mandates the State/UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. Under the said order, the State/UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS and competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS by invoking provisions of clauses 8 & 9 of the said Order. The PDS(Control) Order, 2001 has been superseded by the TPDS (Control) Order, 2015 notified on 20.03.2015 in consonance with NFSA, 2013. The provisions of the PDS(C) Order, 2001 shall be effective in States/UTs which have not implemented the NFSA or are implementing it only in part. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of these Orders is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, both the Orders empower State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders. State/UT-wise details regarding action taken under clauses 8 & 9 of the PDS(C) Order, 2001 during the last three years and current year is at Annex-VI.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous endeavour. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding meetings, conferences, etc. wherein State/UT Governments are requested for review of lists of beneficiaries, improving the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc. The NFSA, 2013 also contains measures for reforms in TPDS, to be undertaken progressively by the Central and State/UT Governments. These reforms inter alia include door-step delivery of foodgrains at the FPS, application of information and communication technology tools including end to end computerization, preference to public institutions/bodies in licensing of FPSs, etc.

(e) : No, Madam.
