

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:307
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014
ALLOCATION UNDER PDS .
Antony Shri Anto ;Karunakaran Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to include more commodities under the Public Distribution System (PDS)/National Food Security Act (NFSA) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to limit foodgrain based welfare scheme exclusively to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether requests have been received from the States for additional allocation of foodgrains and kerosene under PDS/NFSA and other welfare schemes for hospitals and prison inmates, orphanages etc; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a): No, Madam.

(b): No, Madam. There is no proposal to limit the allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) exclusively to the BPL families. However, under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, notified on 10.9.2013, the coverage under the TPDS has been delinked from the poverty estimates. The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population at the all India level to receive subsidized foodgrains under the TPDS.

(c) & (d): Requests have been received from the States for release of additional allocation of foodgrains over and above the normal TPDS allocation. Considering the requests of the States, the Government has allocated 66.45 lakh tons of foodgrains during the current year 2014-15. The Government has also allocated a quantity of 12.75 lakh tons of food grains to the States for additional TPDS requirement, festivals, natural calamities etc. during the current year.

Further, requests have been received from some State Governments for additional allocation of foodgrains under welfare schemes. These States have either not utilized the foodgrains allocated to them in the past under the schemes or have not provided sufficient justification for additional allocation. However, based on the Utilization Certificates furnished by the States and their entitlements, a quantity of 48.98 lakh tons have been allocated under Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Mid-day-Meal Scheme, Welfare Institution Scheme, SC/ST/OBC hostel Scheme, Annapurna Scheme etc.

As per Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, requests have also been received from the State/UT Governments to increase/restore and allot additional quota of Public Distribution System (PDS) Kerosene. The Government has taken a considered decision to allow the States/UTs to draw one month quota of PDS Kerosene at non-subsidized rates during each financial year w.e.f. 2012-13 for special needs.