

BPL cardholders

3074. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Central Government the number of BPL cardholders in the country stood at 4.02 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in a recent meeting held with the States' representatives by Food Secretary, the States have given a figure of 8.13 crore BPL cardholders;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) the reasons behind this high variation of figures between the Centre and the States; and

(f) by when Government is going to notify the BPL families so as to provide them with food security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Government of India for estimating poverty at national and State levels. For allocations of foodgrains to States and UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000. This number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. The latest level of poverty in the country has been notified by the Planning Commission in March, 2007 for the year 2004-05. According to this, 27.5% population was living below poverty line during 2004-05.

As provided under PDS (Control) Order, 2001, the State/UT governments have to identify BPL families as per the estimates accepted by Central Government (6.52 crore). However, as reported by end of June, 2009, the State and UT Governments have issued 10.86 crore BPL ration cards, which include 2.43 crore AAY cards. The State-wise estimated number of BPL families and BPL and AAY cards issued by the State Governments/UT Administrations is given in the Statement (See below). The wide variation in number of BPL families accepted by Central Government for allocations and BPL ration cards issued by State Governments is to a large extent because of exclusion and inclusion errors in identifying the BPL families.

(f) For formulating guidelines for next BPL census in rural areas, Ministry of Rural Development has constituted an Expert Group in August, 2008. The new methodology is yet to be finalized by that Ministry.

Statement

*State-wise total no. of BPL households and Ration cards issued to
BPL, AAY households*

*As reported by 30.06.2009
(figures in lakhs)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of estimated BPL families as on 1.3.2000 based on 1993-94 poverty estimates	Ration cards issued by State/UT Governments		
			BPL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40.63	175.54	15.58	191.12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.99	0.61	0.38	0.99
3.	Assam	18.36	12.02	7.04	19.06
4.	Bihar	65.23	39.94	24.29	64.23
5.	Chhattisgarh	18.75	11.56	7.19	18.75
6.	Delhi	4.09	2.88	1.5	4.38
7.	Goa	0.48	0.13	0.14	0.27
8.	Gujarat	21.20	25.75	8.1	33.85
9.	Haryana	7.89	9.05	2.92	11.97
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5.14	3.17	1.97	5.14
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.36	4.80	2.56	7.36
12.	Jharkand	23.94	14.76	9.18	23.94
13.	Karnataka	31.29	76.77	12	88.77
14.	Kerala	15.54	14.82	5.96	20.78
15.	Madhya Pradesh	41.25	52.65	15.82	68.47
16.	Maharashtra	65.34	45.13	24.64	69.77
17.	Manipur	1.66	1.02	0.64	1.66
18.	Meghalaya	1.83	1.13	0.7	1.83
19.	Mizoram	0.68	0.42	0.26	0.68
20.	Nagaland	1.24	0.77	0.47	1.24
21.	Orissa	32.98	37.63	12.65	50.28
22.	Punjab	4.68	2.89	1.79	4.68

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Rajasthan	24.31	16.53	9.32	25.85
24.	Sikkim	0.43	0.27	0.16	0.43
25.	Tamil Nadu*	48.63	181.91	18.65	200.56
26.	Tripura	2.95	1.82	1.13	2.95
27.	Uttar Pradesh	106.79	65.84	40.95	106.79
28.	Uttaranchal	4.98	3.46	1.51	4.97
29.	West Bengal	51.79	37.98	14.8	52.78
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.28	0.13	0.04	0.17
31.	Chandigarh	0.23	0.09	0.02	0.11
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.18	0.12	0.05	0.17
33.	Daman and Diu	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.04
34.	Lakshadweep	0.03	0.02	0.012	0.03
35.	Pondicherry	0.84	1.14	0.32	1.46
TOTAL:		652.03	842.78	242.75	1085.53

*Separate figures of APL/BPL cards have not been made available by the Government of Tamil Nadu as there is no distinction between APL and BPL categorisation of households.

Food security legislation

3075. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware about the greater responsibility they would bear once the food security legislation is passed in the Parliament;

(b) if so, what pre-arrangement are being made to cope up with workload;

(c) what is the situation about fair price shops in various States; and

(d) whether his Ministry is aware about the non-functioning of PDS in most of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act. Under the proposed law, every Below Poverty Line (BPL) family is to be entitled to received 25 kg of foodgrains per month. Details of eligible BPL families to be covered, methodology for their identification, issue of targeted identification cards to them, subsidy component and other implications, etc. are yet to be worked out.