

of India as on 01.03.2000, or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Government, whichever is less. Accordingly, allocations of foodgrains are made @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted number of 15.54 lakh BPL/AAY families in the State of Kerala. Allocations under APL category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool and past offtake. Presently allocations under APL are made @ 10.5 kg. per family per month to Kerala.

Allocations of foodgrains under TPDS are based on the above norms and not on requirement of the States. In 2008-09, allocation of rice for APL category was initially made on the basis of average offtake in the previous two years i.e. 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, allocation of wheat was made at 2007-08 level. Subsequently, considering the request of State Government Kerala and availability of foodgrains in central pool, adhoc/additional allocations have been made at APL rate to the State from time to time during 2008-09. Allocations of foodgrains (rice and wheat) made to Kerala under BPL, AAY and APL families for 2008-09 are as under:

(In thousand tons)

Category	Rice	Wheat	Total
AAY	250.260	0	250.260
BPL	318.792	83.556	402.348
BPL+AAY	569.052	83.556	652.608
APL	350.672	161.324	511.996

Monthly allocations of foodgrains made under BPL/AAY and APL categories from July 2009 onwards are as under:

(in thousand tons)

	AAY	BPL	Total of AAY/BPL	APL Normal	Additional	Total of APL
Rice	20.855	26.566	47.421	17.056	19.00	36.056
Wheat	0	6.963	6.963	11.777	-	11.777
Total	20.855	33.529	54.384	28.833	19.00	47.833

#### Bogus ration cards

1556. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prevalence of large number of bogus ration cards in different States such as Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, whether Government has any vigilance reports to show approximately how many such cards may be under issue in entire country, State-wise;

(c) what may be quantity of different ration items being misused due to such bogus cards; and

(d) what steps Government proposes to take for elimination of same so that rations do not go waste burdening exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As reported by Government of Andhra Pradesh, based on demographic details and eligibility criteria, the State Government recognizes the prevalence of some bogus ration cards. Tamil Nadu government follows a universal Public Distribution System with no distinction between BPL & APL ration cards. AAY ration cards however, are maintained with distinct identity. As reported by Tamil Nadu Government, about 5-7% of the ration cards may be bogus.

(b) to (d) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated jointly by Central and the State/UT Governments. The responsibility for correct identification of eligible families and effectively distributing the allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) lies with the State Governments.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001, has been notified by the Government of India on 31st August 2001. Clause 4 of this Order mandates the State Governments/UT Administrations to issue distinctive ration cards to Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and to conduct periodical review and checking of ration cards, to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has gone in for issuance of ration cards through use of iris biometric technology. This technology allows the State authorities to identify duplicates and bogus cards. Based on this, the State Government is planning a comprehensive door to door verification exercise across the entire State starting August, 2009 to weed out bogus cards.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that a special scheme was launched during the month of July, 2008 for intensive 100% door to door verification of family cards. A pilot scheme for such verification was made in the districts of Coimbatore and Tiruchirapalli and Anna Nagar zone in Chennai which resulted in the elimination of 2.46 lakh cards as bogus. In the second phase, such 100% verification was taken up in 10 more districts which has resulted in the identification of 7.71 lakh of such suspected bogus cards. All the remaining 20 districts shall be taken up by September, 2009.

To streamline functioning of TPDS, in consultation with State Governments, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which inter-alia includes continuous review of BPL/AAY lists and to eliminate ghost/bogus ration cards. As part of implementation of this Action Plan, 15 States have reported by 30.6.2009, deletion of 100.53 lakhs bogus/ineligible ration cards. Also deletion of 47.92 lakh individual ration cards has been reported by West Bengal Government.

Further instructions have been issued to all State and UT Governments to take action as per law against the persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and the Government staff found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons.

**Essential commodities Act to check hoarding/price rise**

1557. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether provisions of Essential Commodities Act are adequate to enable States to prevent hoarding of wheat, pulses, etc., thereby checking undue price rise;

(b) if so, how many traders were booked for crossing limits imposed by State Governments since August, 2006 when powers under this Act were invoked and regularly renewed every six month till now State-wise; and

(c) the other steps taken to prevent further price rise of foodgrains meant for vulnerable sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Data available on action taken by the State Governments/UTs under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 from the year 2006 is given below:

Year	No. of raids	No. of Persons arrested	No. of Persons prosecuted	No. of Persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated (Rs. in Lakhs)
2006	135025	5421	3244	498	977.21
2007	235405	6944	4872	1022	4003.96
2008	268775	8001	6425	790	6095.22
2009 (upto 30.06.2009) (Updated as on 13.07.2009)	56990	3152	1691	24	1314.79

(c) Under the Public Distribution System Government of India procures and provides essential commodities to the state governments for distribution to the vulnerable sections of society. In addition through a mix of monetary, fiscal and trade policies steps have been taken to contain the price rise for essential commodities.

**Food security for BPL families**

1558. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is working on a provision related to food security for BPL families;