

Poverty Line (BPL) households to be assisted under its programmes, Ministry of Rural Development issued guidelines for BPL census 2002 based on 13 socio-economic parameters. For formulation 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 finalised by that Ministry. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has not issued any such guidelines.

The Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State Level. For allocation of foodgrains to States and Union Territory (UT) Governments 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 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.

Responsibility for identification of eligible BPL families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through Fair Price Shops is of the States/UT Governments.

For issuing ration cards under TPDS, The States/UT Governments have to identify the BPL families as per the estimates accepted by the Central Government (6.52 crore) as provided under the Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001.

Monitoring agency to look after the functioning of PDS

3704. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wadhwa Committee has recommended monitoring agencies to look after the functioning of PDS since the provisions of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 are being violated by some State civil supply departments, as informed by this Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Central Vigilance Committee (CVC) set up by Hon'ble Supreme Court in the context of Writ Petition No. 196/2001 to study functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), submitted its report on TPDS in Delhi to Supreme Court in August, 2007 containing certain recommendations. This report of CVC was sent to Government of Delhi on 28-09-07 for comments. Delhi Government has informed, in their reply dated 02-05-09, about some of its decisions taken on the CVC report as given in the Statement (See below).

Subsequently the CVC submitted its study reports on TPDS in respect of Jharkhand, Karnataka, Orissa and Uttarakhand on 25.3.2009. Copies of these reports were obtained from the Website of the Committee and forwarded to the respective State Governments on 15.4.2009 to examine on each of the recommendations, to take necessary action thereon and send action taken reports.

However, as per Supreme Court Order dated 10.01.08, suggestions of the CVC will be considered only after study of TPDS in other States is completed.

Statement

Details of Action Taken Report of the Government of NCT of Delhi on the select recommendations of Central Vigilance Committee (CVC)

Sl. No.	Recommendations of the CVC	Action taken
1	2	3
1.	Abolition of APL category households from TPDS	The Government of Delhi has completed the APL cards and thus excluded 9,38,000 APL cards
2.	Elimination of bogus cards through door to door survey	The department has deleted 29,970 bogus cards so far.
3.	Zero tolerance — strengthening Enforcement wing and Anti-Hoarding Cell.	The Government of NCT of Delhi has approved the proposal of creation 09 posts of Police personnel in Anti Hoarding Cell.
4.	Computerization of PDS operations.	Computerization of Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs department is almost complete.
5.	Establishment of help lines under TPDS	The State Government has already formed a Grievance Mechanism and has a full fledged Public Grievance Commission.
6.	Independent agency like Ombudsman/Regulator for TPDS functioning	The Government of NCT of Delhi has not accepted this. As it feels that the compliance of the Citizen Charters can be effectively done by the administrative machinery.
7.	Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC) to be taken over by the Department of Food and Supplies.	The Government of NCT of Delhi does not agree with the above suggestion.
8.	Constitution and strengthening of Vigilance committees at State/District level.	A Single Vigilance Committee has been notified on 16.2.2009.

1	2	3
9.	Strengthening the legal regime	The department feels that the existing Legal Regime is sufficient.
10.	To increase public awareness about TPDS Scheme	The department is giving due publicity by organizing street plays and through Periodic advertisements in the leading newspapers.
11.	To increase viability of FPSs	Department has allowed FPS holders to sell 14 consumer usable items in addition to the PDS items.
12.	Putting up banners at prominent places on trucks carrying PDS commodities	The trucks carrying food articles are fitted with boards prominently displaying "ON PDS DUTY" FPS holders are provided display Notice Boards of uniform size.
13.	Implement Model Citizen Charter dated 30th July, 2007	The citizen's charter is being followed.
14.	Amnesty scheme to surrender bogus ration cards	The scheme was launched in the department. However, it was noticed that there was no response from the public.
15.	Repeal of Section 15A of the EC Act, 1955	The Government of NCT of Delhi does not agree with this suggestion.

Import of pulses

†3705. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has imported pulses from abroad;
- (b) if so, the names of the countries from where the pulses have been imported and their quantity;
- (c) the reasons for non-reduction of prices of pulses in wholesale and retail markets despite the import of pulses from abroad; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to check the efforts of black marketeers and hoarders to hike the prices artificially and further action to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir. Government has permitted import

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.