

Food security

2309. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

- (a) whether food security is the top priority of UPA Government;
- (b) whether it has ascertained the exact count of below poverty line persons in the country;
- (c) what would be the total amount required for implementation of this scheme;
- (d) the assurances been sought from the State Governments on foodgrain availability to sustain the massive scheme; and
- (e) how many State Governments have assured/responded?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) The poverty estimates at National level and State level are decided by the Planning Commission. The latest Poverty estimates of Planning Commission are for the year 2004-05 according to which 27.5% of the population was living below poverty line in 2004-05. Actual identification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families is done by State and UT Governments. For identification of BPL families in rural and urban areas, guidelines are issued by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, respectively. For the next round of BPL census, the Ministry of Rural Development is yet to finalize the guidelines. Thus exact count of BPL persons based on the latest poverty estimates is not yet available.

Food security in the country is of high priority to Government. Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act. Under the proposed law, every Below Poverty Line (BPL) family is to be entitled to receive 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, etc. are yet to be worked out,

Examination of different aspects of the proposed law in consultation with various stake holders is presently in progress, As part of this exercise, first consultation with State/UT Governments on various aspects of the proposed legislation was held on 10th June, 2009, So far comments from 15 State/UT Governments have been received.

Entitled families deprived of BPL cards

†2310. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that over one crore entitled families are deprived of BPL cards in the country; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government for food security of these families, and to provide them BPL cards immediately along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) For identification of BPL families as per poverty estimates of Planning Commission, guidelines are to be formulated by State/UT Governments as stipulated under the Public Distribution System (Control), Order 2001. To facilitate this, Ministries of Rural Development and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation issue guidelines.

Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) the responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible BPL and AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the fair price shops rest with the State/UT Governments.

For allocations of foodgrains to States and UTs under TPDS, the Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of 6.52 crore 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 or BPL ration cards issued, *whichever is less*. Foodgrains for these families are being allocated to the State Governments/UT Administrations @ 35 kg per family per month.

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.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, question (b) does not arise.

Distribution of fortified atta to Kerala

2311. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority of Kerala had submitted a proposal during the year 2007 for distribution of fortified *atta* through Supplyco. outlets;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken thereon;

(c) whether action would be taken in affirmative on the above submission; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Government (Department of Food and Public Distribution) issued guidelines dated 17.1.2008 regarding distribution of wheat flour to ration card holders of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) categories through Fair Price Shops.