

To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly taking up the issue with State and UT Governments for:—

- (i) continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- (ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;
- (iii) improving monitoring and vigilance at various levels; and
- (iv) introducing new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities, etc.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that with a view to revamp the scheme for covering all the eligible families, the state government has introduced Iris biometric technology. It contains images of over 5 crores citizens and the process of purification is currently going on.

Further, the State Government has taken these measures to ensure proper distribution of essential commodities through TPDS and to curb leakages and diversion:—

- (i) Essential Commodities are being transported to door step to Fair Price Shops to ensure their proper delivery without diversion enroute.
- (ii) Securing acknowledgment of receipt of stocks delivered at the Fair Price Shops duly signed by two members of the Village Food Advisory Committee,
- (iii) Essential Commodities such as rice under TPDS and Annapurna scheme are issued to the card holders on surrender of coupons at Fair Price Shops.
- (iv) The role of the functionaries connected with the distribution of essential commodities at various levels is clearly defined for accountability.
- (v) Ensuring enforcement by regular inspections of FPSs dealers etc. by the enforcement officials as per targets fixed.
- (vi) Ensuring proper distribution of rice both in quantity and quality as per the scale, price and timings fixed for distribution by the Government.
- (vii) Close tracking of the vehicles transporting TPDS rice.
- (viii) Stern action is being taken against the persons indulging in illegal trade of TPDS rice.
- (ix) Vigilance and Enforcement by the District Collectors and Chief Vigilance Officers through integrated flying squads.

Cheaper wheat and rice to BPL families

2308. SHRI MANGALA KISAN:
SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

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

- (a) whether Government is providing Rs. 3 a kg. rice/wheat to all BPL families by law;
- (b) if so, the details worked out so far;
- (c) the beneficiaries of minorities and weaker section, especially SCs and STs; and
- (d) the quantity being supplied to the Government of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) As per the existing allocation norms for foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), States and UTs are being allocated foodgrains for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. The BPL families are at present allocated food grains at the issue price of Rs. 4.15 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 5.65 per kg for rice.

Out of the 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, the Government is allocating foodgrains (rice and wheat) as per applicable norms to all the accepted number of 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the States/UTs at issue price of Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice and Rs. 2 per kg for wheat.

Government proposes to enact National Food Security Act. For this, details are yet to be worked out.

Allocations to States/UTs are not made on the basis of community as these allocations are made to all eligible families including the SCs and STs.

The details of the existing monthly allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh are as under:—

Orissa

(in tons)

Commodity	AAY	BPL	APL	Total
Rice	44260	97131	2195	143586
Wheat	0	0	32735	32735
TOTAL	44260	97131	34930	176321

Andhra Pradesh

Rice	54524	87674	131334	273532
Wheat	0	0	2754	2754
TOTAL	54524	87674	134088	276286

*excluding incentive based allocation of 40,000 tons.