

In addition to the commodities allocated by Central Government under TPDS, State/UT Governments may organize distribution of additional essential commodities through fair price shops and other outlets.

BPL families in Andhra Pradesh

945. 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 1993-94 poverty estimates, the number of BPL families in Andhra Pradesh stands at 40.63 lakhs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ration cards issued by the State stands at 191.12 lakhs, including AAY which stands at 15.58 lakhs;

(c) whether the above cards have been issued as per the estimates provided by the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry is providing foodgrains to 191.12 lakh card holders in the State; and

(e) if not, how the above BPL families would get foodgrains inspite of issuing ration cards?

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/Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 01st March, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them, whichever is less. This number of BPL families is 6.52 crores, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

These 6.52 crore BPL families, include 40.63 lakh BPL families, including 15.578 lakh AAY families in Andhra Pradesh. However, as reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, they have issued 203.178 lakh BPL/AAY ration cards (187.60 lakh BPL and 15.578 lakh AAY ration cards).

The Central Government allocates foodgrains (rice and wheat) @ 35 kg per family per month to 6.52 crore BPL/AAY families, including 40.63 lakh BPL families (which include 15.578 lakh AAY families) in Andhra Pradesh.

The above mentioned norms are uniformly applicable for all States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh.

Foodgrains are also allocated for Above Poverty Line (APL) families between 10 and 35 kg. per family per month, depending upon the availability of foodgrains in the Central pool, including Andhra Pradesh.

As reported by the Andhra Pradesh Government, they utilize the allocation of rice made by the Central Government for BPL (other than AAY) and APL category of households, to meet the requirement of 187.60 lakh BPL families at Rs. 2.00 per kg. The deficit between the actual requirement and allotment of rice made by the Central Government under BPL and APL categories is being met through purchases in the open market by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Discrepancies in BPL cards

†946. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any discrepancies have been found in the BPL cards by Government and eligible people are not getting the benefit of BPL card;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to remove such discrepancies;
- (c) whether Government feels the need to increase BPL quota in proportion to the population; and
- (d) if so, up to what extent and if not, whether all eligible people of BPL are getting facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor is operated under joint responsibility of Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of fair price shops, rest with the concerned State and UT Governments.

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. The number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. However, as reported by end of January, 2010, State and UT Governments have issued 11.12 crore BPL ration cards including 2.43 crore AAY cards. The higher number of BPL ration cards issued by the State Governments/UTs is due to improper targeting of the poor households, and have inclusion as well as exclusion errors. The State and UT Governments have been directed to take up a campaign during October to December, 2009 to detect and eliminate bogus/ineligible BPL ration cards.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.