

The Government of India arranges for procurement of foodgrains through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the Central pool and their allocations for the Below Poverty Line Families (including Antyodaya Anna Yojana families) to the States/UTs. Allocation of foodgrains to States and UTs are also made as a part of welfare schemes or in times of natural calamities. In addition, foodgrains are also released to the States and UTs for the Above Poverty Line (APL) category, depending on an availability of foodgrains in the Central pool. Taking bulk delivery of allocated foodgrains from FCI depots, the subsequent transportation and storage within the States and UTs, delivery to Fair Price Shops for distribution to ration card holders, supervision and control over the distribution of allocated foodgrains to Fair Price Shops are under the domain of the State/UT Governments, concerned.

Under the TPDS, allocations of foodgrains are presently made for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families across the country through a network of 5.04 lakhs Fair Price Shops on a recurring basis since June, 1997.

The Central issue price for the BPL category is Rs. 6.65 per kg for rice and Rs. 4.15 per kg for wheat; for Antyodaya Anna Yojana category they are Rs. 3 per kg of rice and Rs. 2 per kg of wheat. The central issue price for APL category is Rs. 8.30 per kg for rice and Rs. 6.10 per kg.

#### **Report of Suresh Tendulkar Committee**

2212. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria laid down for estimation and identification of people living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country;
- (b) whether there has been variation in the poverty estimates of the Union and the State Governments;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Suresh Tendulkar Committee has come out with a new set of figures for BPL families; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the composition and terms of reference of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

(a) to (c) The Planning Commission has been estimating poverty in the country since 1997 on the basis of the methodology contained in Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Number and Proportion of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). The Poverty Line was defined as per capita consumption level of Rs. 49.09 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs.56.64 per capita per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level which correspond to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The National Poverty Line is disaggregated into State-wise poverty lines in order to reflect the State-wise price differentials and these poverty lines are

updated using Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) in rural areas and Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) for urban areas. The latest poverty estimates were released for the year 2004-05 based on the poverty line adopted at all-India expenditure level as Rs. 356.30 per capita per month at 2004-05 prices for rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita per month for urban areas. The Planning Commission estimates the poverty using the above poverty lines from a large size sample survey of household consumer expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization after an interval of 5 years approximately. The Ministry of Rural Development conducts the Below Poverty Line (BPL) census through the States and UTs to identify the BPL families in rural areas. The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002 based on the methodology of Score Based Ranking of rural households for which 13 scorable socio-economic parameters were used. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation issues the guidelines for identification of poor in the urban areas.

Planning Commission is the nodal agency in the Government of India to estimate poverty in the country. However, some of the State Governments with their own perceptions regarding poverty, have been requesting to include more number of people as poor.

(d) and (e) The Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar on 2nd December, 2005 to review the methodology for estimation of poverty with Dr. R. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, Prof. Raghav Ghaia, Faculty of Management Science, University of Delhi and Dr. Suranjan Sen Gupta of Kolkata as members. Terms of Reference of Committee include:

- (i) To examine the issues relating to the comparability of the 50th, 55th and 61st round, and to suggest methodologies for deriving such comparability with past and future surveys.
- (ii) To review alternative conceptualizations of poverty, and the associated technical aspects of procedures of measurement and data base for empirical estimation including procedures for updating over time and across states.
- (iii) In the light of (ii), to recommend any changes in the existing procedures of official estimates of poverty.

The Expert Group submitted its report on 8th December 2009 and based on proposed new methodology it has estimated the all-India rural poverty headcount ratio for 2004-2005 and 41.8%, urban poverty headcount ratio at 25.7% and at All India level at 37.2%.

#### **Country's growth**

2213. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: