

(d) whether it is also a fact that only 1.52 per cent dalits at the Central posts are at the level of Additional Secretary; and

(e) if so, the manner in which the Ministry is planning to address this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) As on 12th April 2010, as per the information available in this Department, no scheduled caste officers are among 88 secretaries in the Centre. Two Secretary level officers belonging to SC category have reverted to the State in the last one month. Further, four scheduled tribe officers are holding Secretary/Secretary level posts.

(c) The posts of Secretary, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary in the Ministries/Departments are not promotion posts, with the exception of posts in the Ministry of External Affairs etc., where the posts of these designations are cadre posts. Under the Central Staffing Scheme, the posts of Secretary, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary in other Ministries/Departments are mostly filled by appointment of officers, borrowed from various cadres including the State cadres, who are empanelled to hold such posts and who give their option for deputation under the Central Staffing Scheme. There is no provision of reservation for SCs/STs in these posts. However at the time of empanelment, every effort is made to empanel officers belonging to SC ST, if necessary by adopting liberal benchmarks as compared to officers from General Category.

(d) As on 12th April 2010, as per the information available in this Department, there are no scheduled caste officers among the officers of Additional Secretary level posts at the Centre. However, two Scheduled Tribe officers are holding Additional Secretary/Additional Secretary level posts.

(e) There is no discrimination in view of the position explained in para (c).

#### **Food Security Law**

†2211. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission is not in favour of Food Security Law;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of efforts made by Government to implement appropriate system of foodgrain distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has not opposed the proposed Food Security Law.

(c) The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/UT Governments.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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 in 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