

Variation in poverty estimation

3123. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is being made to States for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families as per population estimation submitted by the Registrar of India on 1st March, 2000;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are huge variations in the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission and that of the number of families actually identified and Ration Cards issued to them by the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIR, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) 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 by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less.

As per the above estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. However, the State/UT Governments have issued 1107.83 lakh BPL cards, which includes 2.43 crore AAY cards.

Variation in the number of cards is due to the fact that the State Governments and UTs have issued cards in excess of the accepted number of families based on the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission.

Criteria for identification of beneficiaries under BPL scheme

†3124. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria to be fulfilled by the beneficiary identified under the below poverty line category and the number of beneficiaries identified in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that this identification was made on the basis of Census of 2001 but according to the present population, two times more people of the identified beneficiary in Uttar Pradesh by Government of India come under the criteria of beneficiary;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government will identify beneficiaries on the basis of current population;
and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIR, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State levels.

Planning Commission uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level. The State specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using State specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The national poverty line at 2004-05 prices is Rs. 356.30 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita per month in the urban areas.

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 by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. This number of BPL families is 6.52 crores, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

As per these estimates, the number of BPL families in Uttar Pradesh is 106.79 lakh, which includes 40.945 lakh AAY families.

As reported by the government of Uttar Pradesh, the income criteria for identification of BPL families is Rs. 19884/- per family per annum in rural areas and Rs. 25546/- per family per annum in urban areas.

The guidelines for identification of BPL families in rural areas have been issued by Ministry of Rural Development in 2002. The actual identification of BPL families is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. The allocation of foodgrains to 6.52 crore accepted number of BPL families, including 106.79 lakh BPL families in Uttar Pradesh, are made @ 35 kg. per family per month. These norms are uniformly applicable to all States/UTs.

Licence for Hallmarking of gold

3125. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences for Hallmarking of gold issued till date;