

**Entitlement of foodgrains to BPL/APL category**

2142. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

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

(a) the amount of foodgrains required to meet the total demand of BPL and APL cardholders in the country, assuming 100 per cent off-take;

(b) the actual off-take of foodgrains in the last three financial years by APL and BPL consumers; and

(c) the basis for fixing the entitlement at 35 kg. per month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Estimated annual requirement of food grains for accepted number of BPL (including AAY) and APL families under TPDS for the year 2010-11 is about 47 million tons at the existing level of allocation.

(b) The details of offtake of foodgrains (rice and wheat) by the States/ Union Territories for BPL (including AAY) and APL families under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the last three years are as below:

(in lakh tons)

Year	BPL (including AAY)	APL
2007-2008	245.68	87.22
2008-2009	251.80	94.20
2009-2010	263.40	160.63

(c) Taking into consideration the availability of foodgrain stocks with the Government and the cereal requirement of the households, the per family entitlement of foodgrains under TPDS was fixed at 35kg per month from April, 2002.

**Improvement in rationing system**

†2143. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is taking suggestions from States for improvement in rationing system;
- (b) the levels on which the suggestions would be taken;
- (c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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) is operated under the joint responsibility of the 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/UT Government.

Reviewing of functioning of TPDS is a continuous ongoing process. For the smooth functioning of TPDS, Government has been periodically holding meetings/conferences with State/UT Ministers and Food Secretaries. A Conference to share the Best Practices and Reforms in TPDS was held on 12th and 13th July, 2010 with all Food Secretaries and other senior officials of the States/UTs and Government of India. At the end of the Conference, it was resolved to take several measures with a view to further streamline and strengthen TPDS.

In order to assess the functioning of TPDS, the Department got it evaluated with the help of Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission and ORG Marg, New Delhi who submitted their reports in the year 2005. Their reports pointed out certain shortcoming in functioning of TPDS. Their reports had been sent to State/UT Governments for necessary action.

A concurrent evaluation study was conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 12 States. They submitted reports in respect of six States in November, 2007 and for six States in January, 2009. The study found that the delivery mechanism of TPDS was quite effective in nine of the twelve selected States where more than 80 percent of the Below Poverty Line households obtained their entitled quantity of cereals regularly. In the selected States, majority of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana households received close to the fixed entitlement of rice and wheat (35 kg)

except in the case of Assam, Bihar and Mizoram. These reports have been sent to the concerned State Governments for taking necessary remedial measures to streamline TPDS.

#### **Setting-up of Central Food Security Fund**

2144. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to set up a Central Food Security Fund to monetarily compensate the Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) who fail to get 35 kilograms of wheat or rice per family per month at a subsidized rate of Rs. 3 per kg;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is being implemented in any State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The details of the proposed National Food Security Act are being worked out by an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted to consider the issues concerning the proposed law. Based on directions of EGoM, a draft Bill will be prepared and placed on the website of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

#### **Reforms in TPDS**

2145. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has called for reforms to make the Targeted Public Distribution System more efficient and responsive to the changing "socio-economic milieu";

(b) if so, the details of drastic changes Government proposes to make in the Targeted Public Distribution System;

(c) whether views of the State Governments on the proposed TPDS has been examined; and