

#### **Entitlement of foodgrains to poor**

2928. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to restrict food guarantee to 25 kg. of grains for BPL households which is less than the existing entitlement;

(b) whether Government is aware that inadequate intake of food and artificial division of poor in the name of BPL-APL has created serious health problem among majority of population who are poor; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) In the address of the President to the joint session of Parliament on 04.06.2009, it was announced that under the proposed law on Food Security every Below Poverty Line (BPL) family would be entitled to 25 kg of foodgrains at subsidized prices. However, as various issues pertaining to the proposed law are still under examination, a final decision is yet to be taken.

At present, Government makes allocations of foodgrains to States / Union Territories for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) at the rate of 35 kg per family per month in respect of BPL/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past off-take, allocations are also made for Above Poverty Line (APL) families. Presently allocations for APL families range between 15 and 35 kg per family per month in different States. The distinction between BPL and APL is made to better target the poor so that their food intake and nutritional status get improved.

In addition, allocations are also made for various other welfare schemes such as Mid-Day Meal scheme, Wheat-based Nutrition Programme, Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls, Integrated Child Development Services scheme, etc.

#### **Food coupons**

2929. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: