

Introduction of unique ID in PDS

1125. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce Unique ID in Public Distribution System (PDS) to remove the shortcomings therein; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Task Force on Computerization of Public Distribution System (PDS) has submitted its report to Government. It has recommended that State Governments start enrolling residents into the UID system so that all residents have Aadhaar numbers. The single unified technology platform shall also be UID enabled to ensure that once UIDAI assigns UID Numbers, it automatically integrates with the application. However, till such time the UID Numbers are provided, States should go ahead with building up the computerized beneficiary data in the State which would be UID enabled.

Foodgrains under PDS according to 2010 Census

1126. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide foodgrains quota to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the States according to the 2010 census;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the foodgrains distributed in 2010 are on the basis of the 1991 census;

(d) whether it is also a fact that more than seven crore BPL families had been left out of the PDS; and

(e) 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 (e) Presently, allocations of foodgrains are made under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission and population projection of the

Registrar General of India as on March 2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less.

If BPL population is calculated taking March 2010 population and 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission, the increase is 6.47 crore BPL population i.e. 1.18 crore families and not 7.00 crore BPL families.

Global Hunger Index, 2010

†1127. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is far behind the countries like Pakistan, Indonesia on the Global Hunger Index, 2010;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government with regard to the availability of foodgrains; and
- (d) the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has brought out a Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report in October, 2010. The index is a combined measure of undernourishment, underweight in children under the age of five and mortality rate of children under the age of five. The index ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst. In this Report, GHI score for India is 24.1 while the scores for Pakistan and Indonesia are 19.1 and 13.2 respectively.

The GHI Report, 2010 does not reflect impact of the latest economic events. For instance, this index is based on 2003-08 data, so it does not reflect India's latest performance. Further, child mortality and incidence of underweight in children are not necessarily as a result of only hunger.

(c) and (d) Government allocates foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to States and Union Territories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Below Poverty Line(BPL), including Antyodaya Anna Yojana(AAY) families every month. Allocations of foodgrains for APL category are also made at subsidized prices depending upon their availability in the Central Pool. Government is also implementing food based Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) like Mid-day-Meal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.